

Score	Description
3	Student letter to the editor included their opinion on the ethical issues involved in one of the four topics: cloning, GMOs, stem cell research, or the Human Genome Project. The letter was well composed and remained focused on the points the student was trying to make. Student started the letter with a strong opening statement and included the most important information at the beginning, they used a personal story or illustration to make their point, and they used any relevant facts to support their opinion. The letter did not contain any grammatical errors.
2	Student letter to the editor included their opinion on the ethical issues involved in one of the four topics: cloning, GMOs, stem cell research, or the Human Genome Project. The letter was well composed and remained focused on the points the student was trying to make. Student started the letter with a strong opening statement and included the most important information at the beginning, they used a personal story or illustration to make their point, and they used any relevant facts to support their opinion. The letter contained one or two grammatical errors.
1	Student letter to the editor included their opinion on the ethical issues involved in one of the four topics: cloning, GMOs, stem cell research, or the Human Genome Project. The letter was not well composed and did not remain focused on the points the student was trying to make. Although the student started the letter with a strong opening statement and included the most important information at the beginning, they did not use a personal story or illustration to make their point, and nor did they use any relevant facts to support their opinion. The letter contained one or two grammatical errors.
0	Student letter to the editor did not include their opinion on the ethical issues involved in one of the four topics: cloning, GMOs, stem cell research, or the Human Genome Project. The letter was not well composed and did not remain focused on the points the student was trying to make. The student did not start the letter with a strong opening statement and did not include the most important information at the beginning, they did not use a personal story or illustration to make their point, and nor did they use any relevant facts to support their opinion. The letter contained several grammatical errors.