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In my Opinion, Esperanza is correct in her view of America, it is not a place of fairness and opportunity. The American dream was not accessible to everyone. Due to racism, slavery, and injustice, America is not the golden land of opportunity for everyone. In "Asparagus", "Justice in Eatonville", and "I Too", the characters have also realized and experienced how devastating the discrimination in America can be.

America is not treating people that have different colored skin as equals. This theme appears a lot in the poem "I Too" by Langston Hughes and the excerpt "Asparagus" by Pam Munoz Ryan. In "I Too" Hughes says, "I am the darker brother, they send me to eat in the kitchen when company comes." The white people are treating the darker people like lesser beings. In "Asparagus" Esperanza said, "You cannot work on the engines because you are Mexican." The white "Okies" got priority because of the color of their skin.

America was definitely not a land of opportunity for slaves. They worked at the mercy of white families for no pay. In "Justice in Eatonville", he says, "he was raised working for white folks, but like a slave, not like a child." The whites were so cold hearted that they made a child grow up "feeling like a whipping post." Slavery contributed to inequality which is the opposite of opportunity.

Many people believed that America was a place of fairness, that is definitely not true. In "Asparagus", the Mexicans "can only swim on Friday afternoons, before they clean the pool on Saturday mornings." The reason that they did that is because they thought the Mexicans were "dirtier than the others." This is clearly an injustice because a whole culture of people were thought to be dirty. Not to mention the fact that they couldn't even use the inside toilets or the hot water.

I agree with Esperanza, America has made its fair share of mistakes. America was racist, it enforced slavery, and treated some of its people with injustice. America used to be prejudice and discriminating, but fortunately for us, America has improved a lot since then.

**Opinion/Argument Writing**

<b>4</b>	The response is well organized and developed. It demonstrates all of the features of opinion writing: a clearly stated opinion or claim, supporting reasons and text evidence from the source(s), a clear and logical conclusion, and a strong voice. The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly and has few or no mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
<b>3</b>	The response is adequately organized and developed. It demonstrates most of the features of opinion writing and includes adequate supporting reasons and text evidence from the source(s). The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly most of the time and may make some mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, but they do not hinder meaning.
<b>2</b>	The response is somewhat organized and developed. It demonstrates some features of opinion writing but may not have adequate supporting reasons or text evidence from the source(s). The writer uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly some of the time and makes many mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, which hinder the overall meaning.
<b>1</b>	The response is disorganized and undeveloped. It demonstrates little understanding of opinion writing and does not state a clear opinion or claim. The writer rarely uses conventions of grammar and sentence structure correctly and makes many mistakes in capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, which hinder the overall meaning.
<b>0</b>	The response does not fit the writing prompt or is incomplete.

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## Opinion Essay: Score 4 (Grade 5)

The response is well organized and developed. The key details from the text chosen by the student clearly support the student's opinion. Text evidence is clearly cited using quotation marks. The student does a good job of developing his/her own reasons why the text evidence supports his/her argument.