**7th – 8th Writing Standard 1**

ADVANCED (4)

* + All proficient criteria plus:
  + **I acknowledged an opposing claim and stated a reason for that claim.**

PROFICIENT (3)

* + I introduced a claim in a thesis statement.
  + I organized the reasons and evidence that support my claim clearly.
  + I supported the claim with at least 2 clear reasons and relevant evidence from credible sources.
  + I used transition words to demonstrate, or show, the relationships among claims and reasons.
  + I provided a concluding statement that follows from the argument presented.
  + I use proper grammar, sentence structure, and punctuation.

PROGRESSING (2)

* + 4-5 proficient criteria

NEEDS PRACTICE (1)

* + 1-3 of proficient criteria