

OPINION ESSAYS

Introduction: Paragraph 1 – State the topic and your opinion clearly

Main Body: Paragraph 2 – Viewpoint 1 and reason

Paragraph 3 – Viewpoint 2 and reason

Paragraph 4 – Give the opposing viewpoint and reason

Conclusion: Final Paragraph – Restate your opinion, using different words

Opinion essays are formal in style. They require your opinion on a topic which must be clearly stated and supported by reasons. It is necessary to include the opposing viewpoint in another paragraph.

A successful opinion essay should have:

- a) an introductory paragraph in which you state the topic and your opinion
- b) a main body which consists of two or more paragraphs. Each paragraph should present a separate viewpoint supported by your reasons. Another paragraph giving the opposing viewpoint and reasons may be included
- c) a conclusion in which you restate your opinion using different words.

POINTS TO CONSIDER

- First decide whether you agree or disagree with the subject of the topic and make a list of your points and reasons.
- Write well-developed paragraphs consisting of more than one sentence.
- Begin each paragraph with a topic sentence which summarises what the paragraph is about.
- Linking words should be used throughout your composition.

TECHNIQUES FOR BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS

The first paragraph may:

- make reference to a strange scene or situation
- address the reader directly or ask the reader a rhetorical question (question to which no answer is expected)
- start with a quotation

The last paragraph may:

- state a personal opinion
- give the reader something to consider
- end with a quotation

USEFUL LANGUAGE

To express opinion: I believe, In my opinion, I think, In my view, I strongly believe, The way I see it, It seems to me (that)

To list points: In the first place, first of all, to start with, Firstly, to begin with, secondly, thirdly, finally, last but not least

To add more points: what is more, another major reason, also, furthermore, moreover, in addition to this/that, besides, apart from this, not to mention the fact that

To introduce contrasting viewpoints: It is argued that, People argue that, Opponents of this view say, There are people who oppose, Contrary to what most people believe, As opposed to the above ideas

To introduce examples: for example, for instance, such as, in particular, especially

To conclude: To sum up, All in all, All things considered, Taking everything into account, On the whole, In conclusion