

How to Write an Opinion Piece

Instructions

Gather Evidence

1. Draw a T-chart showing “Points for” and “Points against” the issue. Decide which side you agree with.
2. Choose at least three points from the side of the chart you have chosen to defend. Arrange them from strongest (most convincing) to weakest. Write these in the left-hand column of the template.
3. Collect facts, reasons, examples, or other evidence that support or prove each of these three points. Write these in the right-hand column of the template.

Write an Introduction

4. Write a topic sentence that states what the issue is and your point of view.
5. Then write a sentence that explains why you feel this way (summarize the three main points that you will cover).

Write the Body Paragraphs

6. Choose your strongest point and write it in sentence form.
7. Write the points you listed under “Evidence” in sentence form as well. Use transition words such as “for example” and “therefore” to connect the sentences.
8. Do the same for the next two points.
9. Use transitions such as “in addition,” “for example,” and “also” to connect your paragraphs.

Write a Conclusion

10. Restate your topic sentence in a different way.

Check Your Work

11. Make sure that all your points support your opinion of the topic.
12. Read through again to correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation mistakes.

How to Write an Opinion Piece Template

INTRODUCTION

<p>State the problem and your point of view (opinion):</p>
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BODY

Point 1	Evidence
Point 2	
Point 3	

CONCLUSION

<p>Restate your topic sentence another way:</p>

Opinion Piece Checklist

Name: _____ Title of Selection: _____

Main Idea

- The topic sentence is in the first part of the first paragraph.
- The main idea remains consistent throughout the piece.
- The main idea is restated in the final paragraph.

Supporting Details

- At least two supporting details are included.
- Supporting details are developed.
- Supporting details are clearly related to the main idea.

Organization

- Connecting words are used between ideas, sentences, and paragraphs.
- Each paragraph has a clearly defined topic.
- There are at least three clear paragraphs: introduction, body with supporting details, and conclusion.

Audience and Purpose

- Level of language and tone are appropriate for audience and purpose.

Grammar

- Sentences are complete and correct (verbs agree with subjects, pronouns agree with antecedents, verb tense is consistent).

Spelling

- Spellings checked using spelling patterns, rules, and resources.

Punctuation

- Punctuation is used correctly (e.g., period, question mark, exclamation mark, comma, dash, apostrophe, colon, quotation marks, parentheses, ellipses).

Opinion Piece Rubric

Category	Level One	Level Two	Level Three	Level Four
Main Idea and Supporting Details <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sufficient supporting details included details relate to and support main idea main idea consistent throughout piece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely demonstrates the skills opinion expressed is unclear supporting details not included 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes demonstrates the skills opinion expressed may be unclear, and supporting details do not adequately develop stated main idea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently demonstrates the skills one clear opinion is expressed and is sufficiently developed by the supporting details 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always demonstrates the skills one clear opinion is expressed and is substantially developed by the supporting details
Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> appropriate strategies used to organize ideas and information in pre-writing (if applicable) ideas presented in a logical order ideas and information are relevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely organizes and presents written work appropriately no apparent connection between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes organizes and presents written work appropriately connection between some, but not all ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently organizes and presents written work appropriately ideas connected in a simple or mechanical way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always organizes and presents written work appropriately all ideas clearly and coherently connected
Audience and Purpose <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tone and level of language appropriate to audience and purpose requirements of particular writing form included quotes and/or information from other sources cited and acknowledged (if applicable) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely demonstrates an understanding of how to persuade the reader language and tone are inappropriate for stated audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes demonstrates an understanding of how to persuade the reader language and tone are not consistent, and in some places are inappropriate for stated audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently demonstrates an understanding of how to persuade the reader tone of writing is persuasive language is consistent with stated audience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always demonstrates an understanding of how to persuade the reader language and tone used very effectively for purpose and audience
Grammar and Usage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complete and correct sentences used verb tense and voice appropriate and consistent verbs agree with subjects pronouns agree with antecedents in number and gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely demonstrates appropriate use of grammatical structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes demonstrates appropriate use of grammatical structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently demonstrates appropriate use of grammatical structures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always demonstrates appropriate use of grammatical structures
Spelling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> knowledge of spelling patterns and rules use of appropriate resources to spell appropriately (e.g., dictionaries, word walls, spelling strategies) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely demonstrates a knowledge of spelling patterns and rules and ability to use resources to aid in spelling correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes demonstrates a knowledge of spelling patterns and rules and ability to use resources to aid in spelling correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently demonstrates a knowledge of spelling patterns and rules and ability to use resources to aid in spelling correctly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always demonstrates a knowledge of spelling patterns and rules and ability to use resources to aid in spelling correctly
Punctuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> punctuation used correctly, including period, question mark, exclamation mark, comma, dash, apostrophe, colon, quotation marks, parentheses, and ellipses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rarely demonstrates an appropriate and effective use of punctuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sometimes demonstrates an appropriate and effective use of punctuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistently demonstrates an appropriate and effective use of punctuation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> always demonstrates an appropriate and effective use of punctuation