

Name: _

Opinion Essay Toolkit

Use the words, phrases, and ideas below to help you write a powerful opinion essay!

1. INTRODUCTION PARAGRAPH

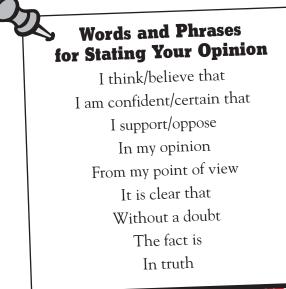
Writing Your Hook

The beginning of your essay is called the hook because it "hooks" your readers' attention. Here are some ideas for writing a great hook:

- **Question:** Ask your readers a question that leads them to take your side on the issue. **Example:** *What would a school birthday party be without cupcakes?*
- Quotation: Start with a powerful quote from a well-known person. (Don't forget to mention the source!) Example: Albert Einstein once said, "Imagination is more important than knowledge."
- **Short experience:** Start with a few sentences describing something that happened to you or someone else, to show your main point.

Example: Twelve-year-old Sarah Patel was texting her sister while walking to school one morning. All of a sudden—SMACK. She slammed right into a brick wall.

- **Surprising Fact:** Catch your readers' attention with a piece of information they aren't likely to know. **Example:** American elementary school students produce 1.2 billion pounds of lunch trash every year.
- **Vivid Scene:** Use descriptive details to drop your readers into a scene to make your point. **Example:** The sky is dazzlingly blue. A warm breeze carries the scent of wildflowers. Something floats up lazily from behind the trees—a bird? A butterfly? No: a plastic bag.





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2. BODY PARAGRAPH(S): REASONS AND EVIDENCE

Transition Words and Phrases:	Transition Words and Phrases: e
Giving Your Reasons	Providing Evidence
Use these words or phrases to introduce each reason you give.	Use these words or phrases to introduce the details or examples that support your reasons.
To begin withIn additionOne reason isMost importantNextOf course	For example/instanceSpecificallyIn factIn particularAs evidenceTo illustrate
Besides Einally	
Words and Phrases	Words and Phrases
for Arguing Against the Other Side:	for Arguing Against the Other S
Introducing the Other Side	Explaining Why You Disagre
(Optional)	(Optional)
Words and Phrases	Words and Phrases
for Arguing Against the Other Side:	for Arguing Against the Other S
Introducing the Other Side	Explaining Why You Disagre



Words and Phrases for the Conclusion Paragraph

Use these words and phrases for your conclusion.

For all these reasons As you can see As I have noted

On the whole In short In conclusion

To sum it up As I have said To summarize

You can see why Therefore The time has come to

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