



## Having Your Say: Writing An Opinion Paragraph

### Understanding And Labelling Opinion Paragraphs



**What is it?** An opinion paragraph is a type of *persuasive writing*.

#### Where can I find it?

Opinions are everywhere:

- on billboards;
- in advertisements

Opinion paragraphs can be found in:

- letters to politicians or newspapers;
- in a CD or movie review;
- in your textbooks; ...

**Why do people create opinion paragraphs?** These paragraphs are used to convince people to *believe something* or to *do something*:

- Advertisers want you to believe that you need their product so that you will buy it.
- Politicians want to persuade you to vote for them.
- People who write letters to the editor may want others to read their ideas, and then join them in changing something about their communities.

#### How is an opinion paragraph organized?

Persuasive writing comes in a variety of forms. For example, a letter to the editor is different from movie review. However, opinion paragraphs usually follow this pattern:

1. Statement of opinion



2. Evidence: a reason why the opinion is correct. Usually includes one or more of the following:

- Facts or statistics
- Events
- Anecdotes (references to personal experience)
- Statements from experts



3. Concluding comment: a restatement of the opinion and (sometimes) a recommendation for action



## Student Handout: Unit 1 Lesson 5



### Assignment #1: Labelling The Parts Of An Opinion Paragraph

**Instructions:** Read the following paragraph, and label the following parts of the paragraph:

- topic Sentence
- evidence
- concluding statement
- recommendation.

(Note: You may label by creating a legend and highlighting each part a different colour; or you use arrows to identify specific parts of the paragraph).

**Teenagers today are lazy, dishonest and uninterested in anything that involves hard work or personal sacrifice. For example, a recent study in Great Britain found that teens today are more obese, drink more alcohol and do more drugs than any generation before. Diabetes in adolescents, and other illnesses related to lack of physical fitness, are much more common today than ever before. In addition, today's teens are less honest, as 65% of Canadian teenagers do not believe that downloading music illegally from the internet was wrong. Finally, most teens today would rather be given an allowance by their parents so they can spend the weekend in front of the X-Box, rather than use some of their free time actually earning their own money at a job. In conclusion, I think that most teenagers do not appreciate the comfortable lives they live – and I think their parents should force them off the couch, and out into the workplace to find out what real life is like!**

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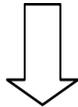
### Assignment #2: Writing An Opinion Paragraph

Write an opinion paragraph on one of the topics below. Your paragraph should:

1. State your opinion.



2. Provide evidence: give at least 2 reasons why your opinion is correct. You may use any of the following as proof to support your opinion:
  - Facts or statistics
  - Events
  - Anecdotes (references to personal experience)
  - Statements from experts



3. End with a concluding comment: a restatement of the opinion and (sometimes) a recommendation for action

### **BEGIN YOUR ASSIGNMENT BY FOLLOWING EACH STEP OUTLINED BELOW.**

#### **Step One: Choose A Question To Write About**

**Question #1:**

Should rap music be banned as dangerous and unsuitable for anyone under the age of 18 years of age?

**OR**

**Question #2:**

Does the media present an accurate, fair picture of Canadian teenagers?

**OR**

**Question #3:**

Should public schools make uniforms mandatory for all students in the Ontario Public School System?

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Copy the question you are responding to here:

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Fill out the chart below in point form.

<p><b>Topic Sentence</b></p> <p>Clearly state your opinion about the chosen topic.</p>	
<p><b>Evidence</b></p> <p>List at least 2 reasons to support your opinion. You may use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Facts or statistics</li><li>b) Events</li><li>c) Anecdotes (references to personal experience)</li><li>d) Statements from experts</li></ul>	
<p><b>Concluding Sentence</b></p> <p>Restate your opinion, and make a recommendation.</p>	

## **Student Handout: Unit 1 Lesson 5**



### **Step Two: Write Your Rough Draft.**

On a sheet of paper from your notebook, write your paragraph, using the ideas you have put into the chart.

### **Step Three: Edit And Revise (Make Changes To) Your Rough Draft.**

Use the following checklist to make sure your paragraph meets the requirements of opinion writing and paragraph structure.

#### **Does your paragraph....**

Begin with a topic sentence that clearly states your opinion about the topic you have chosen?

Have a least two pieces of evidence that supports your opinion?

End with a concluding sentence that restates your opinion, and makes a recommendation?

Have sentences that begin with capitals?

Have punctuation at the end of each sentence?

Have all words spelled correctly?

Be sure to make corrections on your rough draft. If you are not sure about spelling or sentence structure, ask a peer to help you edit your work.

### **Step Four: Write Your Good Copy. (Use A Computer, If Available, Or Paper From Your Notebook.**

### **Step Five: Hand In Your Graphic Organizer (Chart), Rough Draft And Good Copy To Your Teacher.**