



How to Write an Opinion Essay

[a brief overview]

✚ An opinion essay consists of three main parts: introduction, body, and conclusion as illustrated below:

INTRODUCTION

BODY
PARAGRAPH 1

BODY
PARAGRAPH 2

CONCLUSION

- The main aim of opinion essays is to state your opinion on the given topic and prove your main point – your thesis statement. This should be clearly stated in your opening paragraph (introduction). Don't leave the reader to guess what your position is on the issue – make a clear stand at the beginning!
- Next, develop your arguments in the body of your essay. There should be at least two arguments in your essay that support your thesis statement (opinion). The arguments can be separated in paragraphs or kept in one long, single paragraph that makes the body of your essay.
- A good paragraph often begins with a topic sentence. Each paragraph should be at least three to five sentences that develop and support a single, clear topic sentence. Use relevant examples and illustration, facts, opinions, and details to support your arguments.

✚ **INTRODUCTION:** Here you state the main idea of your entire essay - the point you are trying to make or prove. This paragraph should include your thesis statement plus at least two reasons why you believe this statement to be true.

✚ **BODY:** The next paragraph(s) are the body of your essay. Remember in the opening paragraph you gave three reasons for your opinion? Three reasons should be developed in three body paragraphs. Each of the body paragraphs should take one of your reasons and explain it in more detail, citing sources where necessary.

✚ **CONCLUSION:** Here, sum up your argument by restating your thesis statement and reminding the reader what your reasons were by paraphrasing them. End your essay with a warning, ask a provocative question or suggest consequences while making sure you don't include any new ideas.



SAMPLE 1

Why You Should Vaccinate Your Kids

by Trudy Morgan-Cole

Background information	Since Edward Jenner introduced the first successful smallpox vaccine by injecting an eight-year-old boy with cowpox pus in 1796, vaccines have been an important part of public health care around the world (“Edward Jenner”). Yet today, many parents choose not to vaccinate their children. <u>I believe it is important that all parents continue to vaccinate their children because vaccines are widely supported by research and have proven successful in halting the spread of disease.</u>
Thesis statement + two reasons for my opinion	
Topic Sentence	<u>Firstly, a lot of research has shown that vaccination is an effective way to prevent diseases.</u> All major health organizations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO), recommend vaccination. The value of vaccination is supported by research from around the world, and researchers are constantly working to improve the safety and effectiveness of vaccines.
Supporting details	Epidemiologists, the scientists who study the outbreak of disease, all recommend vaccination. For this reason, I believe that parents should vaccinate their children.
Concluding sentence	
Topic Sentence	<u>Next, increased vaccination leads to better public health.</u> Diseases like smallpox and polio, which once killed and disabled millions of people, are virtually unknown today thanks to immunization programs. Additionally, widespread vaccination has helped control outbreaks of measles and other contagious diseases. However, in countries like Afghanistan and Pakistan, where the Taliban discourage immunization, rates of polio are on the rise again (Nordland). Hence, the critical importance of maintaining high vaccination rates globally to ensure public health.
Supporting details	
Concluding sentence	
Restatement of thesis and summary of reasons	<u>In summary, I believe it is crucial for all parents to continue vaccinating their children, as vaccines are strongly supported by research and have effectively halted the spread of diseases.</u> So, if and when you have children, please get them vaccinated. In doing so, you’ll be helping to eradicate infectious diseases in your community and around the world.
Final thought	



SAMPLE 2

WRITING

___ / 25 pts.

Choose ONE of the topics below and write a well-organized opinion essay of 250-300 words. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Provide details and examples that support your arguments clearly. Please be advised that your essays will be checked for plagiarism and if plagiarism is detected in your writing, you will receive zero (0) points.

- Success is only measured in money.

OR

- Video games are not just for kids. Adults can benefit from playing video games.

OR

- All governments should pay their citizens a monthly salary.

Video games are not just for kids. Adults can benefit from playing video games.

Many people consider video games to be a medium for kids and an insignificant form of entertainment. They believe that no adult who values their time would take part in such a trivial activity. However, in my opinion, video games can be more than just a pastime; for this reason, adults should make the time to play video games.

First, video games provide a medium where adults can learn in an enjoyable and effortless way. Games can be fun substitutes for boring textbooks and classes. For example, a video game with a storyline can be a good way to learn a foreign language. The game will give the player a fun virtual environment and meaningful tasks to expand their vocabulary and improve their language skills. By exploring the environment and completing the tasks within the game, learning will be fun and effortless.

Additionally, video games can help adults relax and socialize, especially after a long day at work. After staying in a logical headspace for so long, gaming can help adults unwind and be more social. For instance, some genres of video games, like first-person shooter games, do not require much thinking and can be played online with friends and other people who also play the game. Running around and shooting other players in the game takes minimal effort and can draw the players into light and fun-filled conversations as they play.

In conclusion, video games are becoming more and more popular among adults, and for good reason: they are not only fun but also offer a wide range of benefits. If you think otherwise, try it out, and I'm positive you will see the benefits yourself.



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Sample Essay 1 adapted from: <https://www.studocu.com/ca-es/document/universitat-de-vic/english-and-scientific-communication/writing-1-an-opinion-essay-2022/53226382>

Sample Essay 2 adapted from: <https://www.coursehero.com/file/164754062/SampleEssayWritingBBCdocx/>