

ACADEMIC WRITING. OPINION PARAGRAPH / ESSAY

OPINION PARAGRAPH	OPINION ESSAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TOPIC SENTENCE It clearly establishes the topic to be discussed along the paragraph and PROVIDES THE WRITER'S OPINION. • SUPPORTING SENTENCES (2-4) The body of the paragraph: SSs develop TS with facts, details, and/or examples. All SSs must relate to TS (i.e., no irrelevant facts, details, or examples should be included). Relationship of each SS to TS must be clearly indicated with connecting words. Same applies to relationship of one SS to next (or previous) one. • CLOSING SENTENCE The CS must restate the writer's opinion (and, if possible, the main arguments put forward for this opinion) and include a call to action. Overall, the conclusion must contribute to convince the reader of the writer's opinion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTRODUCTION (30 words) In this paragraph, you should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -introduce the topic clearly -go from general to specific -state the thesis of the essay The internal structure of the intro is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic sentence - Supporting sentences (2-4) - <u>Thesis Statement</u> (opinion + 2 main supporting ideas) • BODY (30 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paragraph 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Topic Sentence: <i>1st main idea</i> ➔ Supporting sentences (2-4) ➔ Concluding sentence - Paragraph 2: (30 words) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Topic sentence: <i>2nd main idea</i> ➔ Supporting sentences (2-4) ➔ Concluding sentence • CONCLUSION (30 words) In this paragraph, you should <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -summarise the main points -restate the thesis -make a final comment - Don't introduce new information The internal structure of the conclusion is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Topic sentence - Supporting sentences - Concluding sentence

USEFUL EXPRESSIONS:

In my view, from my point of view, in my opinion are all fairly formal ways of expressing your opinion characteristic of written English. Less formal equivalents more characteristic of spoken English, include the following:

to my mind: to emphasise that this is your opinion

reckon: usually to express an opinion about what is likely to happen

feel: to express a strong personal opinion

if you ask me: to express an opinion that may be critical

to be honest (with you): to express a critical opinion without seeming rude

as far as I'm concerned: to express an opinion that may be different from others'

- *To my mind the quality of their football is just not good enough.*

- *I reckon it'll rain later today. Let's go tomorrow.*
- *I feel she shouldn't be getting married so young.*
- *If you ask me, it's unreasonable to pay for something which should be free.*
- *To be honest (with you), I'm surprised you got into university with such low grades.*
- *As far as I'm concerned, the matter is over and done with and we can now move forward.*

making concessions

To achieve balance in any essay, it may be useful to incorporate opinions that are different from your own. Useful linking words and expressions include:

Of course, many / some people argue...

It is sometimes argued...

Admittedly...

While...

- ***It is sometimes argued that** it is possible for conditions in the zoo to replicate the wild animal's natural habitat. **While** this may be feasible for smaller reptiles, it will never be possible, **in my view**, for the larger mammals which needs acres of space to roam around in.*

TIPS

Do NOT start directly saying "In my opinion"

Do NOT be redundant: "As far as I'm concerned, I tend to think that..."

Try to incorporate facts to support your opinion

Remember you have to write fully developed sentences.

Mind your punctuation, register and spelling.