

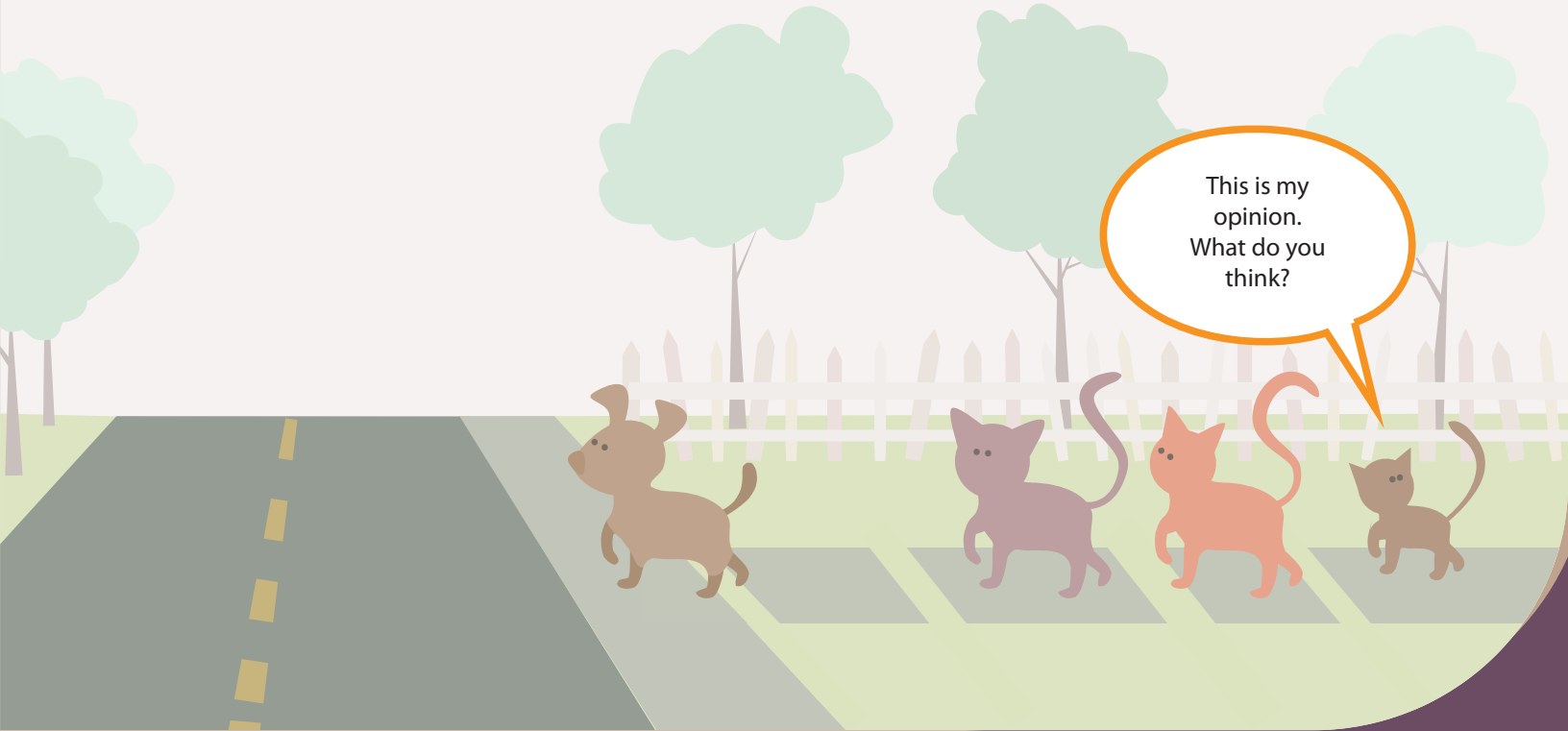
# Opinion Writing

4<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



Cats are better than dogs.

They can leave the house by themselves and get exercise  
by jumping up on the roof.



This is my  
opinion.  
What do you  
think?

# Table of Contents

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## Opinion Writing

Support Identification  
Developing Support Statements  
Writing for a Reader  
Change in Your Classroom  
Identifying Opinion Sentences \*  
Audience for Opinion Writing  
Persuasive Paragraph Worksheet  
Opinion Paragraph Writing  
Write a Letter to the Editor

*Certificate of Completion*  
*Answer Sheets*

\* *Has an Answer Sheet*

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# Support Identification

It's time to begin the process of understanding how to support your opinions with reasons and evidence. When writing a persuasive or opinionated essay, your opinions must be supported. The act of writing an opinion is not enough to make your opinion strong. It is very important to recognize supported statements versus unsupported statements, and to develop a sense of why the former works better in persuasive writing.

Here is a list of statements, half of which are opinions without support and the other half of which are opinions with support. Students are asked to identify each.

Some samples of **unsupported** opinions:

*Cats are better than dogs.* My cat Snowball chases flies in our kitchen. She looks so cute when she jumps from the table to the window sill.

Some samples of **supported** opinions:

*Cats are better than dogs.* They can leave the house by themselves and get exercise by jumping up on the roof and running around the neighborhood. They don't bark or make a lot of noise, so everyone gets enough sleep.

**Now you try:** Which opinion has supporting sentences and which opinion is unsupported? Write *supported* or *unsupported* for each example.



1. *Playing basketball is good exercise.* I am best at shooting the ball so my friends can't block it. My dribbling skills need to improve, and that's why I practice every day.

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2. *Playing basketball is good exercise.* You have to run a lot, and that's good for your heart and lungs. Shooting the ball builds hand-eye coordination, and jumping builds the leg muscles.

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## II. Developing Support Statements

This 3-part worksheet will help students develop the cognitive skills involved in moving from an opinion statement to a support statement.

Take a look at each statement in italics below. Then consider the question: "Why is this true?" This is the first step to start formulating better arguments. Each statement is an assumption, and needs some solid supporting evidence to back it up. Don't limit your supporting evidence to just your own ideas. Think about what other people might say to also support each of these statements of assumption.

Some sample **opinion statements:**

*Watching a movie in a theater is better than watching a movie at home on TV.*

Why is this true? Possible answer:

The screen and sound system are bigger, making for a more immersive experience.

*People need to exercise more.*

Why is this true? Possible answer:

Exercising keeps your body healthy.

### Now you try:

1. *Eating healthy is good for you.*

Why is this true?

2. *Music puts me in a good mood.*

Why is this true?

3. *Wearing sunblock prevents sunburns.*

Why is this true?

4. *A dog is a much better pet than a fish.*

Why is this true?

5. *I like to carry an umbrella when it rains.*

Why is this true?

# III. Developing Support Statements

The word “support” in opinion writing doesn’t only have to include your point of view. Consider what other people might think. Practice developing a strong list of reasons to support the statement, keeping your audience in mind. What might others say about the statement?

**Step one:** Writers think of their own reasons to support the statement.

**Step two:** Have your kids find more reasons and support by also thinking of reasons other people might have.

**Brainstorm** Use the steps above to give reasons to support these opinions:

1. Watching a movie in a theater is better than watching a movie at home on TV.

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2. Exercise is one of the most important ways you can take care of yourself?

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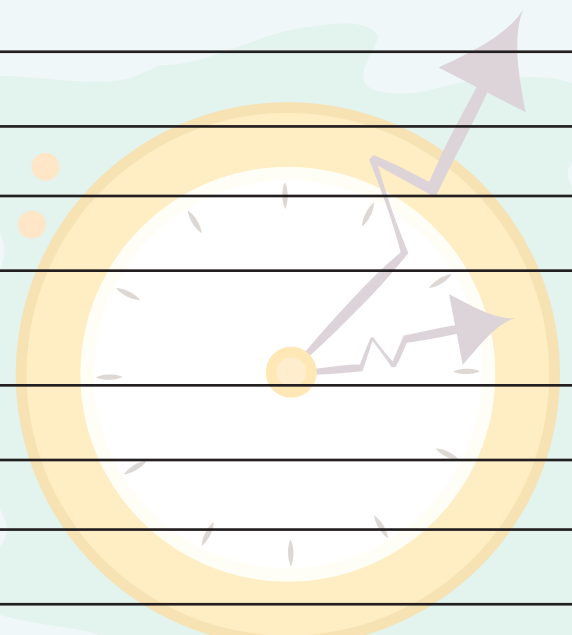
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3. Being early is better than being late.

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# IV. Developing Support Statements

Now it's time to combine what we've learned in pages 1 and 2. Instead of supplying the topic statement that expresses the opinion, this worksheet asks you to choose the topic sentence, and provide two different support statements.

First, choose a topic. Then, write an opinion sentence about your topic. Next, you'll write down one reason why your opinion sentence is true. Finally, write a reason why someone else might think your opinion sentence is true. Now you have a complete, three-part opinion sequence!

## Sample topics:

The best movie

The best kind of ice cream

Favorite holiday

Favorite show to watch on TV

Favorite book

Favorite animal

Dinner

Summer

Homework

Favorite sport to play

### 1. TOPIC Sentence:

Why is this true?

Why would someone else say this was true?

### 2. TOPIC Sentence:

Why is this true?

Why would someone else say this was true?

### 3. TOPIC Sentence:

Why is this true?

Why would someone else say this was true?

# Writing for a Reader I

*This worksheet is created to help you recognize how you can write with a certain reader, or audience, in mind. Keeping the reader in mind can help in the writing process by looking at the reader's age, personality, likes and dislikes. For example, if you are asked to write to your mother, you'll know that you need to use certain words and phrases that will appeal to her.*

This worksheet is the first step in writing notes (or "memos") to people you know. This activity is not a prompt to write the note, just a planning step in the process of writing the note. The situations below have two halves; each half describes a situation for writing the note and the audience for it. Then you'll provide three reasons or points that will be included in the final note.

## Sample Situations:

**A.** You will be writing a note to your mother asking her if you can stay up one hour after your usual bedtime in order to see a certain TV show. What three reasons would you give her so that she will allow you to stay up?

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**B.** You will be writing a note to a good friend asking him or her to come over to your house after school to play. What three reasons would you give him or her to convince him or her to come over to your house?

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## Final Note:

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# Change in Your Classroom



Is there a change you would like to see in your classroom?

As a student, you should be able to voice your opinion. If you give a clear statement of opinion and back it up with good evidence, or supporting statements, then your voice will be better heard and understood. Practice writing an opinion paragraph using the prompts shown below.

? What is one major **change** you would like to see in your classroom?

? **Support #1:**

? **Support #2:**

? **Support #3:**

! **In conclusion,**

# Identifying Opinion SENTENCES



A statement of opinion is not narrative writing. In other words, is not a story. An opinion is a person's own personal belief or point of view.

Read the list of sentences below, each of which belongs either in a piece of **opinion writing** or a piece of **narrative writing**. Identify each sentence as either opinion or narrative.



1. The dog ran into the street, followed by three kittens.

---

2. People should be nicer to homeless people.

---

3. After the car went through the red light, we heard the police siren.

---

4. The bicycle lanes aren't big enough.

---

5. When we jumped into the lake, we were not prepared for how cold the water was.

---

6. Students need to be assigned more homework.

---

# Identifying: Opinion SENTENCES

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1. The elephant was scared by the mouse that entered his home.

---

2. Roasted marshmallows are the best.

---

3. When we sat next to the campfire, we did not expect it to be so hot!

---

4. Hot chocolate is perfect for winter!

---

5. The pool is way too cold.

---

6. I always know when there is a football game by the loud cheers from the stadium.

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# Identifying: Opinion SENTENCES

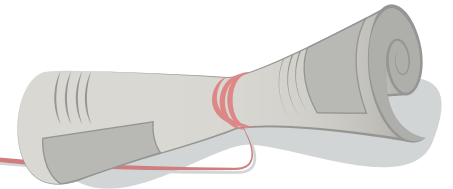


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Identify each sentence as opinion or narrative.

1. The newspaper is so boring to read.



2. You could hear the music pound through the walls.

3. The hardwood floors were cold on my bare feet.

4. Playing video games is the best thing to do on a Saturday morning.

5. Her hair was as yellow as the sun!

6. After he finished his homework, he played basketball by the garage.

# Audience for Opinion Writing



To develop a general understanding of opinion writing, students need to get into the habit of thinking about audience. Consider the different kinds of people you would write to in order to express an opinion.

Whether you're having a discussion with your parents, or deciding on an activity to do with friends, be sure to pay attention to your audience. Consider how you could modify your writing to please your audience.

1. Think about what goes on when you go to the movies with your family. Is there anything you'd like to change about movie night?

Your Audience:

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Your Opinion:

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2. What is good and what is bad about going to the county fair? Is there anything you would like to change about the fair?

Your Audience:

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Your Opinion:

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# PERSUASIVE PARAGRAPH WORKSHEET

LEARN TO SUPPORT YOUR OPINION

A persuasive paragraph states and supports an opinion. Follow the instructions below to write your own persuasive narrative.

Use the subject below, then use this structure to write your narrative:

**SUBJECT:** A new policy will ban Facebook access to all kids under the age of 18.

**INTRODUCTION:** State your position or opinion. Who is your audience? In other words, who are you trying to persuade? Keep your audience in mind when you write.

**REASONS:** List at least three reasons for your opinion. Think of your audience and what reasons might persuade them.

**CONCLUSION:** Restate your opinion in a way that relates it to a greater statement about the world or society.

**INTRODUCTION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REASON #1:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REASON #2:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REASON #3:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUSION:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_









# WRITE a LETTER to the EDITOR

Everyone has a voice in their community. Use yours by writing a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. This is a chance for you to voice your opinion about a community issue that is important to you.

## Brainstorming Ideas

Think of an important public issue that affects your everyday life. Do you agree or disagree with it? How would you change things? Choose from the list below, or come up with your own.

- Dress codes in public schools
- Kids owning their own cell phones
- The 2012 Presidential election
- The voting age (18 years old)
- Find a news report or article that you agree or disagree with
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

# --WRITE a LETTER to the EDITOR--

My local newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

Editor in Chief: \_\_\_\_\_

My headline: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Editor,

I am writing because \_\_\_\_\_

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I feel very strongly about this because \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like it if \_\_\_\_\_

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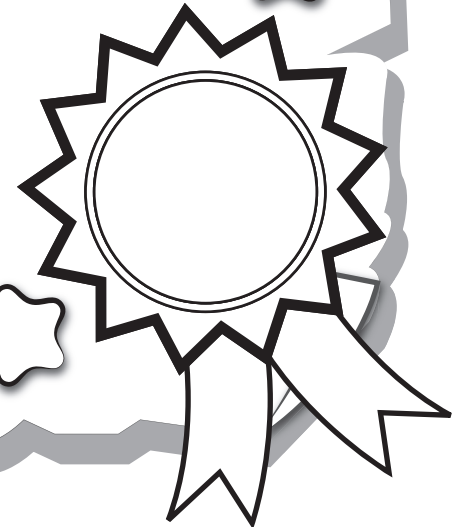
Thank you,

\_\_\_\_\_

Great job!

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# Answer Sheets

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## Opinion Writing

Identifying Opinion Sentences

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# Answer Sheet



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Identify each sentence as either opinion or narrative.

1. The dog ran into the street, followed by three kittens.

**narrative writing (fact)**

2. People should be nicer to homeless people.

**opinion writing (belief)**

3. After the car went through the red light, we heard the police siren.

**narrative writing (fact)**

4. The bicycle lanes aren't big enough.

**opinion writing (belief)**

5. When we jumped into the lake, we were not prepared for how cold the water was.

**narrative writing (fact)**

6. Students need to be assigned more homework.

**opinion writing (belief)**

# Answer Sheet



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narrative writing (fact)

2. Roasted marshmallows are the best.

opinion writing (belief)

3. When we sat next to the campfire, we did not expect it to be so hot!

narrative writing (fact)

4. Hot chocolate is perfect for winter!

opinion writing (belief)

5. The pool is way too cold.

opinion writing (belief)

6. I always know when there is a football game by the loud cheers from the stadium.

narrative writing (fact)

# Answer Sheet

## Identifying: Opinion SENTENCES



NEWS

A statement of opinion is not narrative writing. In other words, is not a story. An opinion is a person's own personal belief or point of view.

Read the list of sentences below, each of which belongs either in a piece of **opinion writing** or a piece of **narrative writing**.

Identify each sentence as opinion or narrative.

1. The newspaper is so boring to read.

opinion writing (belief)

2. You could hear the music pound through the walls.

narrative writing (fact)

3. The hardwood floors were cold on my bare feet.

narrative writing (fact)

4. Playing video games is the best thing to do on a Saturday morning.

opinion writing (belief)

5. Her hair was as yellow as the sun!

narrative writing (fact)

6. After he finished his homework, he played basketball by the garage.

narrative writing (fact)

