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Department of English

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**Level : L1**

**Module :CWE**

**Lecture 7: Using Reasons to Support an Opinion**

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| There are often many different opinions about a certain topic. Therefore, writers must give reasons for their opinions in order to convince their readers. These supporting reasons are often in the form of **facts, explanations**, or **experiences.****1/** A **fact** is a piece of information that **people generally agree is true**.**2/** An **explanation** cannot be proved (like a fact can), but it still helps the reader understand why the writer holds a certain opinion. **3/** An **experience** is something that happened to you or someone else. Writers often use experiences to show how they were influenced to think a certain way.  |

**Examples:**

*Opinion :* You have to be tough to live in Chicago.

**Fact**: Winters in Chicago are very cold.

**Explanation** : It is not easy to deal with those cold, windy days.

**Experience** : My cousin once got frostbite while waiting at the bus stop.

Savage and Shafiei (2007, p.109-10)

**Tutorial (TD) 7: Using Reasons to Support an Opinion**

**Exercise 1: Read each opinion and its supporting reasons. Write *fact, explanation* or *experience* next to each reason. The first one has been done for you**

1. Tokyo is the most technologically advanced city in Asia.

------ fact ------- a. In Tokyo, most people have cell phones and many buildings are equipped with wireless technology.

------------ b. People’s daily lives come to a halt if there is a blackout in Tokyo.

------------ c. I rode the subway in Tokyo for many years, and it never broke down.

------------ d. Some subway stations in Tokyo can handle more than a million passengers a day because of the use of computers.

1. Hawaii has the best surfing beaches in North America.

------------ a. If you have never surfed in the Hawaiian Islands, you cannot be a world-class surfer because Hawaii is the benchmark by which other beaches are evaluated.

------------ b. The winter waves in Oahu are higher than the summer waves, so serious surfers tend to spend time there during the winter months.

------------ c. I got hooked on surfing after just one afternoon of surfing there.

------------ d. Storm waves can rise as high as 20 feet with a face of up to 50 feet.

1. There is no better city to visit than I stanbul.

------------ a. People in Istanbul are friendly and always willing to help their neighbours.

------------ b. Bridges connect the neighbourhoods of I stanbul so thta it can exist in both Europe and Asia at the same time.

------------ c. I had the best meal of my life in a small café in Istanbul.

------------ d. Istanbul has a historically important location as a port city on the only route between the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

Savage and Shafiei (2007, p.110)

**Excercise 2:** **Read each opinion below and provide facts as much as you can to support the opinion given**.

1. **Opinion:** The internet takes too much time away from family life.

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1. **Opinion:** The cell phone industry is a good place to invest money.

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1. **Opinion:** People spend too much money on food.

**…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………**

1. **Opinion :** A paper-recycling program can help conserve our forests.

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**Excercise 3 : Write two *facts and* their *explanations* for the following opinions:**

1. A clean park will be good for business.

Fact 1. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. …………………………………………………………………………

Fact 2. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. …………………………………………………………………………

1. Litter is harmful for the environment.

Fact 1. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

Fact2. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

1. Hunting some animals and birds is immoral.

Fact 1. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

Fact2 ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

1. The ancient Greeks always thought that a healthy mind in the healthy body is a key to a well-balanced life.

Fact 1. ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

Fact 2 ………………………………………………………………………………

Explanation. ………………………………………………………………………

**Exercise 4:** **Write your *outline* then write your first draft of your opinion paragraph about the best city to live in.**

**REFERENCE**

Savage, A. and Shafiei, M (2007) *Effective academic writing 1*, OUP: Oxford.

<https://windofspring.weebly.com/uploads/1/8/2/1/18216447/effective_academic_writing_1-part_one.pdf>