

Opinion Essay

1- Definition

An opinion essay is a formal piece of writing in which you share your viewpoint on a certain topic while using concrete evidence to explain why you formed this opinion in the first place. In other words, you will be given a question or assigned a specific topic by your teacher, decide how you would answer that question or what you believe about that topic in general, collect evidence to support your opinion, and then write an essay so you can share all of this information with your reader.

2- Opinion Essay Structure

While opinion essays can certainly vary based on the essay requirements you have in class, all opinion essays have a basic structure to them. This includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. An example of how you can structure your opinion essay is as follows:

1. An introduction with a well-defined thesis statement
2. The first reason you agree or disagree
3. The second reason you agree or disagree
4. The third reason you agree or disagree
5. A conclusion that summarizes the essay and gives the reader closure

The basic opinion essay structure keeps you organized and helps you present your thoughts in a way that makes sense to the reader.

Organise your text

An opinion essay has three parts:

- Introduction
- Arguments or reasons that support your view.
- Conclusion

Introduction. Paragraph 1

Introduce the topic and give your opinion. Say whether you agree or disagree with the statement or question. It can be a good idea to use a question to grab the reader's attention. Check the two examples below:

Nowadays, top sportspeople, such as football players or basketball players, have huge salaries, and this promotes a lot of debate. However, I don't think they earn too much. In my opinion, their salaries are fair.

How often have you heard a friend or a colleague complain about the excessive salaries of professional sports players? But do they really earn too much? I don't think they earn too much. I truly believe their salaries are fair.

Arguments. Paragraph 2

Give the first argument to support your opinion. Include at least two facts or examples to show that your reason makes sense. Check this example:

Firstly, Despite all the money professional sports players earn every year, they work for only a few years – they usually retire when they are in their thirties. In addition, many of them have to retire earlier because they get injured and have to stop playing.

Arguments. Paragraph 3

Give more reasons and again provide examples, facts or supporting ideas. For example:

Secondly, sports stars are celebrities, and all celebrities lose their privacy. Journalists, paparazzi and fans follow them everywhere, and they want to get pictures or talk to them all the time. Moreover, now anyone can take photos with their mobile phone and publish them at any moment on their social media accounts.

Conclusion. Paragraph 4

Summarise your ideas and repeat your opinion.

To sum up, I believe top professional sports players have the salaries they deserve because their careers are short and because during those years, their personal lives are affected by their popularity.

Useful language

Sequencing your text : **Use connectors to sequence and structure your ideas:**

- *Firstly/First of all, ...*
- *Secondly/Thirdly, ...*

- *Finally, ...*

Adding more points or ideas : **Use connectors to introduce additional ideas:**

- *In addition, ...*
- *Moreover, ...*

Giving your opinion : **Expressions you can use to say what you think:**

- *In my opinion, ...*
- *In my view, ...*
- *I think/feel that ...*
- *I (truly) believe that ...*
- *I am convinced that ...*
- *I agree that ...*
- *I disagree with/about ...*

Introducing examples : **Use connectors to introduce examples:**

- *For example, ...*
- *For instance, ...*

Expressing contrast, purpose and reason : **You may also need or want to use some connectors of contrast, purpose and reason.**

- Contrast: *although, however, despite, etc.*
- Purpose: *to, in order to, so that, etc.*
- Reason: *because (of), since, due to, etc.*

Introducing your conclusion : **Use connectors to introduce the conclusion:**

- *In conclusion, ...*
- *To sum up, ...*