

Writing a Supported Opinion Paragraph

When writing a Supported Opinion Paragraph, the keys to success are as follows:

1. **Make sure that you understand the question** that is being asked, and what you have to provide in your answer.

Exemplar: What is your favourite television show? Explain why.

2. **Make sure that you jot down your opinion and your support** in the Rough Notes section on the paper to organize this information before you start writing.
3. **Make sure that you follow the suggested Supported Opinion Paragraph structure** when writing your answer.

Exemplar:

My favourite TV show is CSI. I like CSI because it creates a lot of suspense. You are always wondering what will happen next. CSI is also good because it makes you think and it is also educational. It teaches you a lot about forensic science. CSI is also my favourite TV show because it is creative. Every week they come up with another strange and unheard-of method of murder. CSI is my favourite TV show because it is so well-done.

Sentence #1 – Introductory Sentence – This sentence contains part of the question (e.g. "My favourite TV show is") and answers the question (e.g. "CSI") being asked.

Sentence #2 – Sentence of Support – This sentence contains the first support for the opinion given in the introductory sentence (e.g. "...because it creates a lot of suspense").

Sentence #3 – Sentence of Clarification – This sentence provides clarification by explaining the first support given (e.g. How is CSI suspenseful? "You are always wondering what will happen next.").

Sentences #4 – Sentence of Support – This sentence contains the second support for the opinion given in the introductory sentence (e.g. "...because it is educational").

Sentence #5 – Sentence of Clarification – This sentence provides clarification by explaining the second support given (e.g. How is CSI educational? "It teaches you a lot about forensic science.").

Comment [P1]: This word explains that the answer must focus on one show that you ENJOY.

Comment [P2]: This word indicates that you are only to talk about ONE show rather than compare your favourite to others.

Comment [P3]: This is the phrase that asks you to provide details to support your answer. As a suggested rule, choose three reasons.

Sentence #6 – Sentence of Support – This sentence contains the third support for the opinion given in the introductory sentence (e.g. "...because it is creative").

Sentence #7 – Sentence of Clarification – This sentence provides clarification by explaining the third support given (e.g. How is CSI creative? "Every week they come up with another strange and unheard-of method of murder.").

Sentence #8 – Concluding Sentence – This sentence ends the paragraph by summing up the details within the rest of the paragraph, and may even create unity by repeating a phrase from the introductory sentence (e.g. CSI is "so well done", which is a description that describes all of the other details in the paragraph.).

4. **Make sure that you edit your paragraph**, so that there are no errors that prevent your reader from understanding what you are saying. Use an internal checklist to do so like this one:

Exemplar:

Did I:

- Ensure that I stayed focused on the assigned question?
- Ensure that I wrote my paragraph in the suggested format? (Introductory statement of opinion, sentences with supporting detail, concluding sentence)
- Write in complete sentences, with proper punctuation.
- Use personal experience to support my answer, rather than made-up facts or information that I am unsure about.
- Use words and punctuation marks that I am comfortable with, to ensure that my writing is correct, mechanically.
- Write neatly, as illegible responses will not be graded.
- Fill all of the lines provided, because the lines provided represent the provincial expectations of length for this question.