

Literacy Preparation Week
November 2009

A Student's Guide



Learning about the Series of Supported Opinion Paragraphs

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THE SUPPORTED OPINION SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS

On the April 2nd Literacy Test, you will be asked to write a series of paragraphs expressing an opinion.



- The topic will be current and familiar to you.
- You must write a **minimum of three paragraphs**, which include an introduction, development and a conclusion. You are given two lined pages for your written work.
- You must **express an opinion** and support it with details. The opinion must be stated clearly at the beginning or end of the response.
- You must adequately **support your opinion** with reasons, examples or facts.

You must make sure that:

- your opinion is clearly stated;
- you have provided enough detail to support your opinion;
- your response is coherent (logical) and organized and;
- your grammar, spelling, punctuation and sentence structure are correct.



Don't be afraid!

All you have to do is Plan, Write and Review!!!

Go through this example with your teacher:

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

Task: Write a series of paragraphs (a minimum of three) expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proofs, facts, examples, etc.).

Purpose and

Audience: an adult who is interested in your opinion

Topic: **Should smoking be allowed in public places?**

Length: The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.



SAMPLE: SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS

<p>Intro paragraph</p> <p>Opinion and main reasons (*) stated clearly.</p>	<p>No, smoking should not be allowed in public places. I believe this for two reasons: firstly, <u>(*)second-hand smoke is really dangerous leading to all types of health concerns</u> and secondly, <u>(*)public places should be clean for all to enjoy</u>. Why should everyone be affected because a few choose to smoke?</p>
<p>Body Paragraph #1</p> <p>Topic sentence (what the paragraph is about)</p> <p>Prove with a fact</p>	<p>Smoking should not be allowed in public places because <u>second-hand smoke is really dangerous leading to all types of health concerns</u>. It is a well-known fact that smoking causes cancer and second-hand smoke is just as dangerous as first-hand smoke. Imagine being a non-smoking waiter or a waitress at a restaurant and having to inhale other people's toxic fumes. Imagine how they would feel, after living a healthy life, coming down with lung cancer. It just doesn't seem right. It is for this reason that smoking should not be allowed in public places.</p>
<p>Body Paragraph #2</p> <p>Topic sentence (what the paragraph is about)</p> <p>Explain and prove why you are right</p>	<p>I also believe smoking should not be allowed in public places because <u>public places should be clean and free-of-smoke for all to enjoy</u>. I'm not against people smoking. I'm just against smokers not respecting the rights of others to breathe clean air. Public spaces belong to everyone – children, teenagers, adults – and their rights are far more important than the rights of a few smokers. Most smokers I know respect this and go outdoors to smoke. No one smokes in restaurants anymore either, which is a good thing: I never liked coming home and smelling like a chimney stack. Smoking in public places has to be banned to protect the rights of everyone.</p>
<p>Concluding Paragraph</p> <p>Restate opinion and main points</p>	<p>Smoking should never be allowed in public places. People should have the right to go to malls, restaurants, coffee shops, book stores, and never have to worry about ending up in a hospital fighting lung cancer.</p>



YOUR TURN!

Use the topic given to you by your teacher and tell me what you think.

STATE IT! Introduction Paragraph	What is your opinion? (YES or NO or BOTH ; <u>or</u> AGREE or DISAGREE)
↓ PROVE IT! Body Paragraph(s) ↓	Why do you believe this? (Use your opinion ALONG with examples to support your points.)
	Point #1 Proof #1
	Point #2 Proof #2
Point #3 Proof #3	
LEAVE IT! Conclusion Paragraph	Wrap it up! (Re-state your point of view and summarize your major points)

Day 2

Writing a Series of Paragraphs

Task:	Write a series of paragraphs (a minimum of three) expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proofs, facts, examples, etc.).
Purpose and Audience:	an adult who is interested in your opinion. Write your topic below.
Topic:	_____ _____
Length:	The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

Rough Notes

Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

Write your series of paragraphs on the following two pages.

Day 2: Peer Evaluation

Instructions:

- ✓ Read your partners series of paragraphs
- ✓ Answer the following questions as you read through the essay!

YES	NO	Clear opinion stated in the introduction?
YES	NO	The opinion is consistent throughout the writing?
YES	NO	At least two arguments are provided?
YES	NO	Specific proof and examples are given for each of the arguments?
YES	NO	Organized into intro, main body and conclusion?
YES	NO	Transition or linking words used throughout?
YES	NO	Lined space provided is nearly or entirely used?
YES	NO	Complete sentences used throughout?
YES	NO	Grammar and language errors do not distract reader?

*How did your peer do? How many 'yes' answers did you circle?
(Circle One)*

Pass
7 – 10 YES



Maybe
6 – 7 YES



Needs Improvement
0 – 6 YES



Day 2: Self Evaluation

Instructions:

- ✓ Read your **own** series of paragraphs.
- ✓ Answer the following questions as you read through the paragraphs!
- ✓ Do you agree with your peer? Read your peer's evaluation.
- ✓ Reflect below on what you could do better next time to get a better result!

YES	NO	Clear opinion stated in the introduction?
YES	NO	The opinion is consistent throughout the writing?
YES	NO	At least two arguments are provided?
YES	NO	Specific proof and examples are given for each of the arguments?
YES	NO	Organized into intro, main body and conclusion?
YES	NO	Transition or linking words used throughout?
YES	NO	Lined space provided is nearly or entirely used?
YES	NO	Complete sentences used throughout?
YES	NO	Grammar and language errors do not distract reader?

Reflection: Do you agree with your peer? What could be better?

Day 2: Scoring the Series of Paragraphs – Topic Development

Your total Score is made up of **two** parts

Total Score: / 100

Topic Development: / 60

- How well it is written


Use of Conventions: / 40

- Spelling, Grammar, Punctuation & Usage

Topic Development: / 60



The following are examples of student's work and what they earned **out of 60!**

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Score	What a teacher would say...	Pass?
B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blank: nothing written or drawn in the space provided 	Mark of '0'
I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is illegible, off-topic or not related to topic 	Mark of '0'
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is related to prompt but does not express an opinion • An opinion with no supporting details or details unrelated to an opinion • No evidence of organization <p>Some famous people could actually be good role models for young people, but there are few people like that.</p>	 <p>Stop! Not a Pass!</p>


Day 2: Scoring the series of paragraphs – Topic Development

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Score	What a teacher would say...	Pass?
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is related to assigned prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion • Opinion is unclear or inconsistent • Insufficient supporting details; too few or repetitious • Limited evidence of organization <p>No, they are not good role models. Rappers say bad words and they get arrested. They are greedy and have too many cars, and they have too much clothes.</p> <p>Famous people are lazy because they have people who cook for them. They have people who drive for them.</p>	 <p>Stop! Not a Pass!</p>
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is related to assigned prompt, and it expresses and supports a consistent opinion • A clear opinion, simply developed • Insufficient supporting details; vague • Evidence of organization, but lapses distract <p>Today's famous people are good role models for young people today. They are kind and donate to many causes.</p> <p>They are kind to sick people. They visit them and give them autographs. They pay for them to go to special places.</p> <p>They donate money to people and hospitals for research. They also donate money to the poor so that they can buy things that they need.</p>	 <p>Still No Pass!</p>


Day 2: Scoring the series of paragraphs – Topic Development

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Score	What a teacher would say...	Pass?
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is related to assigned prompt, and it expresses and supports a consistent opinion • A clear opinion, somewhat developed • sufficient supporting details: only some specific • organization is simple or mechanical; lapses do not distract <p>No. Most of the famous people in the media are all messed up. There all getting pragnet at young ages. What parent wants their child to think it is okay to have a child when most of the people that are watching the famous people are children themselves and are nowhere near ready for having a baby. They don't have enough life experience.</p> <p>A second reason why people should not look up to famous people is because just about all of them are doing some sort of drug to ease other pains they might have in their lifes. If you use those types of people and famous people as a role model you will start to see a lot of people getting sick and hurt do to they think it is cool to do drugs because people in the media are using it and they don't really see what happens when you get involved in drugs.</p> <p>Thirdly, lots of famous people carry guns and knives as protection. A lot of people don't understand that they have those weapons as property to protect them selfs. People that look up to them just see weapons and don't understand that there very dangerous. They just think its cool to own a gun or knife.</p> <p>In conclusion, I believe that it is not a great idea to look at famous people as good role models because most of them or a lot of them are having babies at young ages, are getting into drugs and have weapons.</p>	 <p>Pass! Just barely!</p>


Day 2: Scoring the series of paragraphs – Topic Development

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Score	What a teacher would say...	Pass?
50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • response is related to prompt, and it expresses and supports a consistent opinion • a clear opinion, well developed • sufficient supporting details • organization is generally logical but somewhat simple or mechanical <p>The media and famous people have a great deal of influence over young people and their lives. Today, many teenagers are interested to see what famous people do. However, today's famous people are not good roles models for young people because they send the wrong messages about body image, language, and lifestyle.</p> <p>Today's celebrities send the wrong message about body image. Female models or celebrities in television and magazines are mostly skinny and are often described as "ideal" or "desirable". So many young girls see that and try starving, smoking, and so many other unhealthy things to look skinny. Some girls die because of lack of nutrition or overstress. Not only the girls, but young boys also stress themselves over being "tall" or "muscular". Having this "ideal body" in media is wrong and everyone should realize that it is not beautiful and is not worth one's becoming sick.</p> <p>Another reason why famous people are poor role models for young people is that they say inappropriate things. For example, singers have songs that include bad words. Many children listen to these songs and use them throughout their lives thinking it acceptable.</p> <p>Famous people don't always make the best lifestyle choices and this makes them poor role models for today's young people. Today many TV programs release shows about the personal lives of famous people. Most of these "movie stars" and "rock stars" have done unacceptable things such as drugs and smoking - unacceptable things for role models to do. Because of this fact, teenagers think that this is acceptable and then everyone does it. As a result, only a small portion of teenagers live righteously without doing anything illegal.</p> <p>Famous people are influencing the world, from very young children to even adults. Too many unacceptable things are done by them which will eventually be copied by young people. From now on the media should censor bad images and show good images.</p>	 <p>Good work!!</p>

Day 2: Scoring the series of paragraphs - Topic Development

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Score	What a teacher would say...	Pass?
60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • response is related to prompt, and it expresses and supports a consistent opinion • a clear opinion, thoughtfully developed • sufficient specific and relevant supporting details • organization is logical and coherent <p>The lives and faces of famous people and celebrities are spread around everywhere from television and the Internet to magazines and billboards. Young people see famous people everywhere, and naturally they become the people youth look up to. With this, famous people are handed the power and great responsibility of being examples or and influencing young people everywhere. Some of them do an excellent job. However, others do not fulfill the role of role model so well. Sadly, it is also those people who are often highlighted most by the media. You can't give famous people a generic description as either good or bad role models as some are and some are not.</p> <p>Some celebrities are excellent role models for young people. They realize that what they do influences young people and set a standard. They take this role seriously and are, in general, just good, sensible people. Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are perhaps the most famous couple in Hollywood. They are also an example of how celebrities can be good role models. They are red carpet stars that are also loving, nurturing parents. They are their for their children, a good example to set. Also in 2007 alone, Brad and Angelina donated a jaw-dropping \$8 million to different charities. They illustrate the importance of responsibility and also giving back for all their success with their charitable donations. Brad and Angelina are just two of many famous people who have a positive influence on the young people who idolize them.</p> <p>While some celebrities are outstanding role models, some are not very great. There are often reports in the media about famous people who are arrested for drug use or drinking and driving. Many famous people live luxurious lifestyles of partying, clubbing, and substance abuse. They glorify these things that are actually incredibly negative and bad to do. Sadly, the media highlight these stars because that is how they sell magazines and make money. One example is the young pop star Britney Spears. She is constantly bombarded by paparazzi and her life is splashed across the tabloids. Britney parties a lot and often spends her nights out on the town in revealing outfits. She has recently been admitted into a psychiatric hospital for an evaluation. She is at risk of losing her two children to her ex-husband because the courts may deem her an unfit parent because of all the trouble she is surrounded by. The media love this, and they just eat it up as they do with all troubled stars. It is for this reason that things like drug use and partying have been glorified. Stars like Britney should be left alone, but they aren't. They are constantly in the public eye. For this reason, they should recognize the impact their actions have, and perhaps re-evaluate their lives.</p> <p>There is no question that famous people have great influence on youth. Some are good role models, some are not good role models. I think that perhaps that we may just need to hope that young people have the sense to tell the difference</p>	 <p>GREAT JOB!!</p>

Day 2: Scoring the series of paragraphs – Use of Conventions

Topic: Are today's famous people good role models for young people?

Convention: / 40


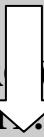
How a teacher decides what you get **out of 40!**

Teacher's look for the following:

- Grammar Errors
 - Example: The student ^{is} ~~are~~ writing the test.
 - Capital letters (ie. bramalea secundary school)
 - Run-On Sentences
 - Sentence Fragments
- Spelling Errors
 - Exampe: The stewdent is riting the tset
- Punctuation Errors
 - Example: The_, student_, is_, writing_? the test_!

Score	Descriptor
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The student has not written enough to be marked. If there is less than two sentences, it will not be marked• The reader cannot tell what you are trying to say
20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information can be understood, but the reader has to re-read the paragraph to get the point.• The reader gets the overall point, but has trouble reading the article
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There may be errors but the reader can understand all of the information written
40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some errors may exist, but the information is easily understood

A: PLAN

 START WITH IT! Introduction Paragraph	What is your opinion? Choose YES or NO . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose an opinion Draft a topic sentence Ex. Famous people are good role models for the teenagers of today.
 PROVE IT! Body Paragraph(s)	Why do you believe this? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> List your reasons and evidence for your opinion. Use your opinion ALONG with examples to support your points.
	Point #1 Proof #1
	Point #2 Proof #2
	Point #3 Proof #3
LEAVE IT! Conclusion Paragraph	Wrap it up! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-state your point of view and summarize your major points

B: WRITE

- Introduction Paragraph:** with topic sentence and main ideas
- Body Paragraph(s):** One paragraph for each main idea.
- Conclusion Paragraph:** restate opinion and main points.

C: REVIEW

- COP Strategy**
(Capitals, Organization, Punctuation)

IT'S AS
EASY AS
A, B, C!

