

# Tips for Writing Opinion Essays

1	<b>Choose your Opinion and Write a Topic Sentence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think carefully about your choices, making sure you can come up with at least 3 reasons.</li> <li>• Write a clear topic sentence that is not short and choppy</li> <li>• Then add some emotional details that hint about your main reasons</li> </ul>
<p>Example:</p> <p>If the prompt says to choose a person you admire:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Although I admire many people, no one stands above my mother. There is no better reason than the fact that she loves me unconditionally. She is also the number one person I turn to when I need help of any kind. My mother is also very funny and her humor really lifts my spirits.</li> </ol>		
2	<b>Think of 3 Reasons You Believe in your Opinion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choose your reasons carefully.</li> <li>• Choose the reasons that are very important.</li> <li>• Make sure you have a lot of ideas for convincing for all 3 reasons</li> <li>• Include transitions</li> </ul>
<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For example, my mother’s love is unconditional.</li> <li>• Another reason I admire my mother is because her love is unconditional.</li> </ul>		
3	<b>You Need a PLAN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use “Boxes and Bullets” to make your plan</li> <li>• Your reasons go in the boxes</li> <li>• Your convincing details are the bullets</li> </ul>
<p>Example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always helps me: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teaches me to sew</li> <li>○ Helps me with homework even when she is tired</li> <li>○ Gives me ideas what to do if I have a fight with a friend</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
4	<b>Now Write a Conclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wrap up by going back to the main point of your essay</li> <li>• Use a transition</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly, my mother is amazing, and she is always there to love me, help me, and encourage me.</li> </ul>		
5	<b>Do and Don’t Do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You might have some great ideas, but it is important to pay attention to the basics</li> </ul>
<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DON’T introduce new ideas or facts into the conclusion</li> <li>• DON’T choose reasons that are trivial and unimportant</li> <li>• DON’T rush through the convincing part like it is a boring list</li> <li>• DO use good grammar, spelling, and punctuation</li> <li>• DO use good transitions</li> <li>• DO “show” with details that reach people’s emotions</li> <li>• DO use good verbs and adjectives</li> <li>• DO reread your essay to help you find mistakes – then fix them!</li> </ul>		