

Name _____

Date _____

Opinion Planning and Writing Worksheet – A 4 Day Plan

Follow the directions provided below. Read each step carefully and complete each in the order they are given.

Day 1 - Complete Steps 1-3:

Step 1: Read the prompt.

Step 2: Take a position.

For

Against

Step 3: What are three possible reasons to support your position?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Day 2 - Complete Steps 4-6:

Step 4: Read the passages and annotate (UNRAAVEL) as you read.

Step 5: What evidence can you find in the passages to support each reason you chose in Step 3?
Write the source and paragraph(s) for each.

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

Note: Now that you have read the passages, you may need to make changes to the reasons you originally chose to support your opinion. Do so now and select evidence that best pairs with your reasons.

Step 6: Write a thesis or opinion statement. It can be edited later to fit into the introductory paragraph. For example:

Schools should provide extracurricular activities because, (insert a short version of reason 1 here), (insert a short version of reason 2 here), and (insert a short version of reason 3 here).

Steps 7 through 11 must be completed on the line paper provided.

Day 3 - Complete Steps 7-8:

Step 7: Begin your essay by writing your introductory paragraph, which includes a hook, background information on the topic, and your thesis statement (opinion statement) from Step 6. Use the lines below to brainstorm ideas to include in your background. What three things do you know about the topic? Write them below. Then, include this information when you write your introduction.

Step 8: Write your first body paragraph, which will focus on the first reason (Step 3) you are using to support your opinion. Include the evidence you selected in Step 5. Also, elaborate (give your ideas) on how this reason supports your opinion.

Remember, it is preferable to paraphrase the evidence from the text. However, use quotation marks if you quote the text directly. Additionally, also cite your sources. Use the following examples as guidelines:

According to Source 1, "Recycling household plastics and cans will reduce by 20 percent the amount of the garbage entering landfills."

Source 1 identifies recycling of household plastics and cans as a way of reducing by 20 percent garbage that enters landfills.

Day 4 - Complete Steps 9-11:

Step 9: As you did in your first body paragraph, write your second and third body paragraphs—one paragraph focusing on the second reason you are providing and another paragraph focusing on the third reason. Do not forget to elaborate.

Step 10: Write a concluding paragraph. The conclusion should sum up the ideas in the essay. One possible way of summing up your essay is by rewriting your thesis statement using different wording than what you used previously. You may also wish to leave your reader with a question or something to consider. Do not add any new ideas (ideas that have not been mentioned in the body of the essay).

Step 11: More than likely, you have been revising and editing your essay as you have been writing. However, now that you have completed your essay draft, read your writing aloud and make the necessary changes. For instance, you might notice that what you are reading does not make sense. Rewrite it! Please note, when you read your work aloud you are more than likely to notice grammatical mistakes you have made.

Other Things to Remember

- 1) Do not forget to indent the first sentence of each paragraph.
- 2) A paragraph should have no less than five (5) sentences.
- 3) Each paragraph should be written one after the other.
- 4) If you are having trouble writing a hook, move on to writing the background information. During revising, you can add a hook.
- 5) Do not quote any information from the sources in your introduction or your conclusion.

Opinion Essay Structure

Introductory paragraph contains—

- Hook
- Background information on the topic
- Thesis (your opinion statement)

Body paragraph 1 contains—

- First reason to support your opinion
- Evidence to support reason
- Elaboration (your ideas) on how this reason supports your opinion (thesis)

Body paragraph 2 contains—

- Second reason to support your opinion
- Evidence to support reason
- Elaboration (your ideas) on how this reason supports your opinion (thesis)

Body paragraph 3 contains—

- Third reason to support your opinion
- Evidence to support reason
- Elaboration (your ideas) on how this reason supports your opinion (thesis)

Concluding paragraph—

- Summary of ideas presented in the body of the essay
