



Opinion of a Topic

Dear Parents,

In the next few weeks, your third grader will write an opinion piece and embark on a journey of self-expression and persuasion. To begin, they'll employ engaging strategies to capture the reader's attention. Then, they'll clearly state their opinion on the topic at hand, expressing it with confidence and conviction. Using a metaphor will add depth and creativity to their argument. As they present their reasons, they'll use transition words like "first," "next," and "finally" to guide the reader through their argument seamlessly. Finally, they'll wrap up their opinion piece with a restatement of their opinion that reinforces their main point. Through this process, your child will not only develop their writing skills but also learn the power of persuasion and self-expression.

Ideas for Home Support

As your child practices writing an opinion paper at school you might consider practicing at home with the following ideas:

- Have your child conduct opinion polls among family members or friends on various topics. They can ask questions like "Which is better: dogs or cats?" or "Should students have homework on weekends?"
- Host a family debate night where everyone gets to share their opinions on different topics. Encourage your child to present their opinion and provide reasons to support it.
- Invite your child to write opinion editorials on topics they feel strongly about. They can choose to write about issues related to their school, community, or personal interests.
- Play Fact or Opinion with your child. Tell your child to decide if you are telling them a fact or opinion. Say things like, "Trees need air to grow. Fact or opinion?" or "Everyone needs trees in their yard. Fact or Opinion?"

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Opinion of a Topic Rubric 3rd Grade

Genre Chart Opinion of a Topic	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
Uses a strategy to engage the reader	Uses an interesting or creative strategy	Uses an engaging strategy effectively	The engaging strategy is weak or does not work	Does not use an engaging strategy
States a clear opinion	Gives a strong opinion	States an opinion about the topic	Opinion is not clear	Does not include an opinion
Provides reasons for the opinion	Gives several reasons for the opinion	Gives more than one reason for the opinion	Reasons do not support the opinion	Does not give a reason for the opinion
Uses a metaphor	Uses a unique metaphor	Uses a metaphor	Attempts a metaphor, but it does not work	No metaphor used
Uses transition words to connect reasons	Uses interesting and effective transition words	Uses transition words to connect reasons	Uses very few transition words or ones that do not work	Does not use transitions
Ends with a restatement of the opinion	Ends with a creative restatement of the opinion	Ends with a restatement of the opinion	Ends with a concluding sentence but it does not restate the opinion	Does not have an ending sentence
Correct conventions support the meaning	No errors or minor errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors but they do not interfere with meaning	Frequent errors that distract the reader	So many errors that it is hard to read

Opinion of a Topic Outline Model

Name _____ Date _____

Opinion Statement:

As far as I am concerned, an octopus is a creature everyone should love.

Topic Sentence:

An octopus is not as creepy as it looks. It is a very gentle creature.

Supporting Evidence:

1. An octopus has 8 arms, suction cups, looks scary
2. They are not fighters.
3. Spray ink to escape
4. They do not attack people.
5. It only bites when caught.
6. It is a gentle creature.

Restate the opinion:

It is a gentle creature that everyone should love.

Opinion of a Topic Outline

Name _____ Date _____

Opinion Statement:

Topic Sentence:

Supporting Evidence:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Restate the opinion:

Outline Practice

Underline the topic sentence and list the reasons in outline form.

I think cats are the best pets! They're great because they can be cuddly when you want to snuggle, but they also like to have their own space. They don't need as much care as dogs and they don't take up too much room. Cats are really fun to watch because they do silly things and have unique personalities. Plus, when they purr, it can make you feel calm and happy. Cats are graceful and mysterious, and lots of people love having them as pets!

1.

2.

3.

4.

Engaging the Reader Model Introductions

Sound Effect

Squish! Squeeze! AAAHHHHH! People think octopuses are scary. They really are not mean creatures. An octopus is an animal everyone should love.

Question

Why do people think octopuses are monsters? They really are not mean creatures. An octopus is an animal everyone should love.

Action

An octopus glides through the water looking for food. It grabs a lobster, squeezes it with its arms and cracks the shell with its jaws. Some people think octopuses are scary, but they really are not mean creatures. An octopus is an animal everyone would love.

Annotations

Engaging Strategy is in bolded red

Facts are in green

Opinion statement is in red

Opinion of a Topic Model

An octopus glides through the water looking for food. It grabs a lobster, squeezes it with its arms and cracks the shell with its jaws. Some people think octopuses are scary, but they really are not mean creatures. An octopus is an animal everyone would love.

An octopus is not as creepy as it looks. It is a very gentle creature. An octopus has eight arms. On each of its arms it has suction cups. It looks scary. An octopus would rather swim away than fight. It sprays dark ink into a cloud so it can escape a fight. An octopus does not attack people. The only time it bites a human is if a person is trying to catch it. It is a gentle creature.

An octopus may look really big and scary but it is actually shy. It is harmless. Instead of being judged on how it looks, people should consider how it acts. It really is a gentle creature that everyone should love.

Opinion of a Topic Model Annotated

Loving Octopuses

An **The octopus glides through the water looking for food. It grabs a lobster, squeezes it with its arms, and cracks the shell with its jaws.** Some people think octopuses are scary, but they really are not mean creatures. An octopus is an animal everyone would love.

An octopus is not as creepy as it looks. It is a very gentle creature. An octopus has **eight arms, each lined with rows of suction cups.** ~~On each of its arms it has suction cups.~~ **Also, an octopus can spread its arms out as wide as three cards lined up, and it has sharp jaws for breaking the shells of lobsters and crabs.** ~~Overall,~~ ~~it~~ looks scary. ~~However,~~ ~~A~~an octopus **is a calm shadow hiding in the rocks** and would rather swim away than fight. It sprays dark ink into a cloud so it can escape a fight. **Additionally,** ~~A~~an octopus ***most often** does not attack people. The only time it bites a human is if a person is trying to catch it. **Biting humans is merely an act of self defense.** It is a gentle creature.

~~An octopus~~ ***While they** may look really big and scary, ***an octopus** is actually shy. ~~It is~~ ***and usually** harmless. Instead of being judged on

how it looks, people should consider how it acts. **It really is a gentle creature that everyone should love.**

Annotations

Engaging strategy is in red

The clear opinion is in green and underlined

Reasons for the opinion are in green

A metaphor is in blue

Transition words are in orange

Restatement of the opinion is in red

Convention edits are in black

*Edits related to the Writing Warm-Up are in black with an asterisk

Transition Practice

Directions: Select the transitions that fit the best in each blank.

Then	Next	By
Finally	First	

Field bees show other field bees where flowers are by dancing on the honeycomb in their hive. _____, the field bee begins to walk in a circular pattern. _____, other bees gather and touch the dancing field bee with their antennae. _____ smelling the dancing bee, the other bees can tell what type of flowers she has visited. _____, the bees feel the field bees' movement and learn the location of the flowers. _____, the other field bees, using the directions, fly out in search of the flowers.¹

¹Passage adapted from *The Life and Time of the Honey Bee* by Charles Micucci.

Answer Key

Field bees show other field bees where flowers are by dancing on the honeycomb in their hive. First, the field bee begins to walk in a circular pattern. Next, other bees gather and touch the dancing field bee with their antennae. By smelling the dancing bee, the other bees can tell what type of flowers she has visited. Then, the bees feel the field bees' movement and learn the location of the flowers. Finally, the other field bees, using the directions, fly out in search of flowers.

Revision: Opinion of a Topic

3rd Grade

Name _____ Date _____

Partner _____ Rubric Score _____

Self	Partner
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Genre Chart

___ ___ **Uses a strategy to engage the reader**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **States a clear opinion**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Provides reason for the opinion**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Uses a metaphor**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Uses transition words to connect reasons**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Ends with a restatement of the opinion**

Suggestions: _____

Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence . ? ! |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)



Editing Checklist

Name _____

Date _____

Partner _____

Any item on the checklist without an X will need to be edited before turning in the paper.

Self Partner

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence . ? ! |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Paragraph is indented |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Correct spelling, including No Excuse Words |
| _____ | _____ | 6. _____ |

(Grammar focus for the class)