

Opinion: Topic Rubric

Genre Chart Opinion: Topic	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
1 Engages the reader	Uses two engaging strategies effectively	Uses an engaging strategy effectively	Attempts to use an engaging strategy	Does not use an engaging strategy
2 Establishes a clear claim	Establishes a strong, purposeful claim	Establishes a clear claim	Claim is unclear	Does not include a claim
3 Organizes information to support claim	Organization enhances readability and supports claim	Organizes information to support claim	Information is partially organized	Organization is confusing
4 Supports claim with reasons and evidence using multiple sources	Claim is fully supported with reasons and evidence	Claim is supported well with reasons and evidences	Claim is not fully supported with reasons and evidence	Claim lacks credible reasons and evidence
5 Uses academic language	Academic language reflects considerable knowledge of topic	Academic language reflects knowledge of topic	Attempts to use academic language	Does not use academic language
6 Shows an awareness of audience by anticipating and addressing counterclaims	Shows a significant understanding of audience by anticipating and addressing counterclaims	Shows an awareness of audience by anticipating and addressing counterclaims	Does not fully address counterclaims; lacks an awareness of audience	Does not anticipate or address counterclaims
7 Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings	Transitions and varied sentence beginnings create fluid writing within and across paragraphs	Uses transitions to connect ideas and varies sentence beginnings	Uses minimal transitions and varied sentence beginnings	Does not use transitions or vary sentence beginnings
8 Concludes with a strong statement	Concluding statement is compelling	Concludes with a strong statement	Concluding statement is weak	Does not have a conclusion
9 Correct conventions support meaning	No or insignificant errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar	A few errors pop out but do not interfere with the essay	Frequent errors distract the reader	So many errors it is hard to read

List of Possible Opinion Research Questions

- Should parents be required to volunteer at school?
- Should bottled water be banned?
- Should skateboarding be banned in public areas?
- Which is better, recess before or after lunch?
- Should schools serve organic food?
- Choose a debatable topic of your choice.

Opinion: Topic Brainstorm

Question: _____

What I know about this topic: _____

Possible views about this topic: _____

Questions I have about this topic: _____

Website Evaluation

Name _____

Date _____

Website #1: _____

Topic: _____

URL (check one) .gov .net .com .edu .mil .org

What does the URL tell you about the site? _____

Purpose of Site (check all that apply) inform persuade entertain

How do you know? _____

Authority and Credibility Who is the author? _____

What are their credentials and do they have authority to speak on the subject? _____

Is there any way to contact the company? How? _____

Does the website provide references or an organization sponsoring the site? _____

Objectivity

Does the website have an obvious bias? ____ What? _____

Is the bias obvious or hidden? How do you know? _____

How does the bias impact the usefulness of the information? _____

Design and Content

Does the website look official? _____ Can you easily move from page to page? _____

Are there any broken links? _____ Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage? _____ If so,

what does that suggest? _____

Think about the type and purpose of the site. Using the information above, write a short reflection about whether you think this website is suitable for your research.

Website Evaluation

Website #2: _____ Topic: (Same as website #1)

URL (check one) .gov .net .com .edu .mil .org

What does the URL tell you about the site? _____

Purpose of Site (check all that apply) inform persuade entertain

How do you know? _____

Authority and Credibility Who is the author? _____

What are their credentials and do they have authority to speak on the subject? _____

Is there any way to contact the company? How? _____

Does the website provide references or an organization sponsoring the site? _____

Objectivity

Does the website have an obvious bias? ____ What? _____

Is the bias obvious or hidden? How do you know? _____

How does the bias impact the usefulness of the information? _____

Design and Content

Does the website look official? _____ Can you easily move from page to page? _____

Are there any broken links? _____ Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage? _____ If so,

what does that suggest? _____

Think about the type and purpose of the site. Using the information above, write a short reflection about whether you think this website is suitable for your research.

Bagged Lunch Research

Such discussions over school lunches and healthy eating echo a larger national debate about the role government should play in individual food choices. For many parents, the idea of forbidding home-packed lunches would be unthinkable. If their children do not qualify for free or reduced-price meals, such a policy would require them to pay \$2.25 a day for food they don't necessarily like.

<http://articles.chicagotribune.com/>

Possible Heading

Sample Notes

My paraphrase

Support for bagged lunches

Some parents strongly disagree with a ban on home lunches. They don't want to be forced to pay for food that their kids may or may not eat.

“such a policy would require them to pay \$2.25 a day for food they don't necessarily like.” –Monica Eng and Joel Hood

Direct quote

Electronic Source #1

<http://articles.chicagotribune.com/>

Where the information was found. Refers back to “Source Documentation.”

Source Documentation

Internet Sources

Source #1

Author name(s): _____

Title of web page or article: _____

Title of the website: _____

Other contributors or name of institution associated with site: _____

Publication date or the date you accessed the website: _____

URL (full web address): _____

Source #2

Author name(s): _____

Title of web page or article: _____

Title of the website: _____

Other contributors or name of institution associated with site: _____

Publication date or the date you accessed the website: _____

URL (full web address): _____

Source #3

Author name(s): _____

Title of web page or article: _____

Title of the website: _____

Other contributors or name of institution associated with site: _____

Publication date or the date you accessed the website: _____

URL (full web address): _____

Objective Summaries

Topic: _____

	Viewpoint 1:	Viewpoint 2:
What do they think?		
Why do they think that?		

Opinion: Topic Outline

Name: _____

Date: _____

Thesis statement: _____

Reason 1	Supporting Evidence
Reason 2	Supporting Evidence
Counterclaim What they believe and why they believe it.	Rebuttal Why is their reasoning flawed?

Engaging the Reader Sample Paragraphs

Shocking Statement

Engaging
Strategy

No chips or soda allowed! Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

List

Engaging
Strategy

Soda? No. Chips? No. Choice? No. Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

Onomatopoeia

Engaging
Strategy

Gurgle, gurgle, rumble. The stomachs of hungry students make noises as they dream about a time when they could bring their own lunch. Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

Question

Engaging
Strategy

Who should get to choose what a child eats, parents or schools? Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

Fact

Engaging
Strategy

President Obama signed a bill that will give \$4.5 billion to make school lunches better. But does that mean students should have to eat cafeteria food? Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

Quote

Engaging
Strategy

"We should bring our own lunch!" chant students from Little Village Academy in Chicago (Eng and Hood). Some schools have passed rules that ban students from bringing their own lunches because school lunches are healthier. But not all parents agree. Bagged lunches should not be banned from schools; parents should be able to decide what is good for their kids and shouldn't have to pay for food their child may or may not eat.

Claim

Parenthetical Citation Guide

One author

Use author's last name and page number where the quote was found:

Scout admits lying to her father when she says, "I said I could like it very much, which was a lie, but one must lie under certain circumstances" (Lee 128).

No comma
between name
and page number

Punctuation
follows citation.

If you use the author's name in your sentence leading up to the quote, do not include the name in your citation:

In Harper Lee's book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Scout admits lying to her father when she says, "I said I could like it very much, which was a lie, but one must lie under certain circumstances" (128).

Two authors

Use the authors' last names in the text or in the parenthetical citation.

Example: "Evidence used to support ideas in an academic essay is usually paraphrased" (Dollahite and Haun 77).

Three or more authors

Use the first author's last name and "et al."

Example: The results for the second year improved by 47% (Smith et al.).

No author is identified

If a source does not include an author's name, use the title or an abbreviated title in the text or parenthetical citation.

Example: Even though Orwell died at the young age of 46, his ideas and opinions have lived on through his work ("George Orwell").

Citing Information Without an Original Source

If you did not read the original source and you cannot find the original source, use the parenthetical abbreviation "qtd." to indicate a quote used.

Example: ABC News reported that "even users who said they didn't like tap water had no problem with it when they didn't know what it was" (qtd. in Money Crashers).

Parenthetical Citation and Embedding Sentences Practice

Directions: Examine each of the following pairs carefully. Indicate the passage that handles MLA in-text citations correctly and briefly explain what is wrong with the citation in the other passage.

1. ____

- a. House bees, also called worker bees, “clean the hive, feed larvae, build wax comb, store food and defend against enemies”. (Micucci, 12)”
- b. House bees, also called worker bees, “clean the hive, feed larvae, build wax comb, store food and defend against enemies” (Micucci 12).

Explanation: _____

2. ____

- a. When a volcano erupts, “the mudflow buries everything in its path as it rushes into rivers and streams” (Cork 17).
- b. When a volcano erupts, “the mudflow buries everything in its path as it rushes into rivers and streams.” (Cork, 17).

Explanation: _____

Embedded Sentences

Directions: Practice embedding quotes using three different methods.

Idea: When Kilauea, an active volcano erupts, it is rumored that the smoke shows a face.

Quote: “She shows up as a young girl or an old woman” (Arnold 40).

Embed the quote beginning with an explanation:

Embed the quote beginning with the quote:

Embed the quote with the quote inserted in the middle:

Now practice with your own paper.

Embed a quotation (any one of your choosing). Don't forget to add the parenthetical citation.

Transition Practice

Directions: Write a statement then follow it with a corresponding transition.

1. Write a statement. Then using a transition, write a statement that refutes the thought.

Conversely	Although	In contrast
However	Whereas	On the contrary
Even though	While	Unlike

Example: Some people think recess before lunch is a better choice. However, considering the long wait time for students, having lunch first gives students the energy needed to enjoy an active recess.

2. Write a statement. Then using a transition, write a statement that emphasizes the thought.

Another key point	For example	For instance
Specifically	Indeed	For this reason
To emphasize	In fact	To demonstrate

Example: Organic milk has more nutrients than non-organic milk. Specifically, studies have proven that organic milk has more anti-oxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, and vitamins.

3. Write a statement. Then using a transition, write a statement that shows similarity or addition.

Additionally	Comparatively	Furthermore
Another	In addition	Likewise
As well as	In the same way	Similarly

Example: Since bottled water undergoes strict purification processes, it is free from contaminants. Furthermore, bottled water tastes much better than tap water.

Revision: Opinion Topic

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Reviser 1: _____

Peer Reviser 2: _____

Rubric Score

Peer 1

Peer 2

Genre Chart	
-------------	--

_____ _____ **Engages the reader** and **establishes a clear claim**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Organizes information to support claim**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Supports claim with reasons and evidence** from **multiple sources**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Uses academic language**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Shows an awareness of audience** by **anticipating and addressing counterclaims**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

_____ _____ **Concludes with a strong statement**
Suggestion for improvement: _____

Editing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Editor 1: _____

Peer Editor 2: _____

Peer 1

Peer 2

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, teacher's name, class name, due date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Correct spelling, including "No Excuse" words |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Paragraphs indented ½ inch |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double-spaced |
| _____ | _____ | 7. _____
<i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i> |

Editing Checklist

Name: _____

Date: _____

Peer Editor 1: _____

Peer Editor 2: _____

Peer 1

Peer 2

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Paper includes name, teacher's name, class name, due date, and title |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Correct punctuation at the end of each sentence |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Correct capitalization (beginning of sentences and proper nouns) |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Correct spelling, including "No Excuse" words |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Paragraphs indented ½ inch |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Times New Roman, 12 pt. font, one-inch margins, double-spaced |
| _____ | _____ | 7. _____
<i>(Grammar focus for the class)</i> |

Bibliography/Works Cited Guide

A **Bibliography** lists all the materials used in research, whether **cited** or **not**. **Works Cited** identifies the sources used, and therefore cited.

Helpful Website to Format Bibliographies/Works Cited: <https://www.scribbr.com/mla/website-citation/>

Each entry follows a template of nine core elements about the source. Sources are listed alphabetically.

	Website	Article	Book
Author.	Author(s) and/or editor(s).	Author(s).	Author(s) and/or editor(s).
Title of Source.	“Web Page or Article Title.”	“Article Title: And Subtitle if Included.”	<i>Book Title: And Subtitle if Included.</i>
Title of Container,	<i>Title of the Website,</i>	<i>Title of Journal, Newspaper, or Magazine,</i>	
Other Contributors,	Other Contributors (if applicable),	Editor(s) (if applicable/relevant),	Other Contributors (if applicable),
Version,			Edition (if applicable),
Number,		vol. #, no. #,	Volume (if applicable)
Publisher,	Publisher (if applicable/available),		Publisher (shortened name),
Publication Date,	Publication Date, or Accessed Date	Publication Date,	Publication Date,
Location.	URL.	Page number (p.) or page range (pp.).	Page number (p.) or page range (pp.).

Author.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 author: Last name, first name | Gladwell, Malcolm |
| 2 authors: Follow the order that is used in the source | Gillespie, Paula, and Neal Lerner |
| 3 or more authors: Name the first author followed by “et al.” | Smith, Theresa, et al. |

Examples:

Article from a website:

Sengupta, Somini. “Global Warming Is Helping to Wipe Out Coffee in the Wild.” <i>The New York Times</i> , 16 Jan. 2019, www.nytimes.com/2019/01/16/climate/climate-change-coffee.html .
How it’s referenced in your paper: (Sengupta)

YouTube video:

Robinson, Ken. “Do Schools Kill Creativity?” <i>YouTube</i> , Uploaded by TED, 6 Jan. 2007. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iG9CE55wbtY
How it’s referenced in your paper: (Robinson 00:43-02:17)

Book by two authors:

Gibson, William, and Bruce Sterling. <i>The Difference Engine</i> . Spectra. 1990. pp. 20-21
How it’s referenced in your paper: (Gibson and Sterling 20-21)

Assessment: Opinion of a Topic

Opinion: Topic Genre Chart

- Engages the reader and establishes a clear claim
- Organizes information to support claim
- Supports claim with reasons and evidence using multiple sources
- Uses academic language
- Shows an awareness of audience by anticipating and addressing counterclaims
- Uses transitions and varies sentence beginnings
- Concludes with a strong statement

News reports say children don't get enough exercise. Should your school cancel recess time and add PE every day? Objectively consider the pros and cons to both sides before establishing your claim. Include at least two research sources.

Write an opinion essay that reflects a level 4 from the rubric.