



Opinion of a Topic

Dear Parents,

In the upcoming weeks, your fourth grader will delve into opinion writing, a journey of self-expression and persuasion. They'll begin by employing engaging strategies to capture the reader's attention while also showing an awareness of their audience. Next, they'll confidently state their opinion, utilizing metaphors to add depth to their argument. Transition words like "first," "next," and "finally" will seamlessly guide their points. Finally, they'll wrap up their piece with a restatement of their opinion, reinforcing their main point. Through this process, they'll not only refine their writing skills but also learn the power of words to convince others.

Ideas for Home Support

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

- Encourage your child to interview family members, friends, or community members about their opinions on specific topics. They can compile the responses and use them as evidence to support their own opinion in a writing assignment.
- Create opinion surveys using online tools or paper-based forms. Your child can distribute these surveys to classmates or neighbors to gather opinions on different topics.
- Help your child set up a simple blog where they can write and share their opinions on a variety of topics. Encourage them to engage with their readers by responding to comments and feedback.
- Ask your child to create opinion-based cartoons or comic strips on various topics. They can use illustrations and speech bubbles to convey their opinion in a creative way.

Thank you for all your support!

Sincerely,

Opinion of a Topic Rubric 4th Grade

Genre Chart Opinion: Opinion of a Topic	4 Exceeded Goal	3 Accomplished Goal	2 Just Beginning	1 Hasn't Started
Uses an engaging introduction that states a clear opinion	Introduction uses a strategy that is creative and makes a clear opinion statement	Introduction uses an engaging strategy is makes a clear opinion statement	Attempts an engaging strategy in the introduction and an opinion statement but they are not clear	Introduction uses no engagement strategy and has no clear opinion
Organizes information to support the opinion	All paragraphs are organized and purposeful to address and the opinion	Paragraphs are organized to support the opinion	Not all paragraphs support the opinion	Paragraphs are not organized well
Supports the opinion with reasons and evidence	Gives several well-written 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
Shows an awareness of the audience	Uses a formal voice and has a clearly written body paragraph that addresses a reader concern	Uses a formal voice and addresses a reader concern	Voice is mostly formal and reader concerns are partially addressed	The formal voice is not clear and no reader concerns are addressed
Uses transition words and phrases to connect reasons	Transitions are creative and use words and phrases	Transitions use both words and phrases	Transitions are common and only use one word	No transitions are used
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 Research Questions

1. Does watching TV affect students' grades?
2. Should students work in groups to complete classwork?
3. Should teachers assign homework over the weekend?
4. To improve students' learning, should schools add an extra hour to the school day?
5. Should students be required to wear uniforms?
6. Should all students be in bed by 8:00 p.m. so that they get plenty of rest for school?
7. Should all students eat lunch prepared by the cafeteria?
8. Is there a benefit for longer recesses at school?
9. Are video games good for kids?
10. Is it better to have a big family or a small one?

Opinion Point of View

Name: _____

Opinion Question: _____

	Point of View #1:	Point of View #2:
What do they think?		
Why do they think that?		

Opinion Point of View Model

Name: _____

Opinion Question: Should all students be in bed by 8:00 p.m. to get plenty of rest?

	Point of View #1: Students should be in bed by 8:00 p.m.	Point of View #2: Students should stay up past 8:00 p.m.
What do they think?	Students should go to bed by 8:00 p.m. so they can get plenty of rest for school.	Students should be allowed to stay up until they are tired.
Why do they think that?	Students need at least 8 hours of sleep every night to stay well-rested. School can be challenging for the mind and for the body. It is important that students get a lot of sleep so they can learn and do their best.	Some students are not tired at 8:00 p.m. It would be hard for them to fall asleep. Students are in school most of the day. If students go to bed earlier, they might not get to do some of the activities they enjoy at home: read books, play games, or watch TV.

Opinion of a Topic Outline Model

Name _____ Date _____

Opinion Statement:

I believe that students should go to bed at 8:00 so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.

Topic Sentence:

Students need to be well-rested so they can do their best

Supporting Evidence:

1. School is challenging, need to learn new things
2. Need to learn new things
3. Students are active
4. Recess/PE
5. Can get up easier
6. Less hassle for parents

Restate the opinion:

It is important for students to get more sleep.

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 the concluding sentence. Then list the reasons in outline form.

I believe winter is the best season! When snowflakes fall, it's like magic covering everything in a beautiful white blanket. Winter means cozy sweaters, hot cocoa, and fun times building snowmen and having snowball fights with friends. Plus, it's the perfect time for snuggling up with a good book or watching movies by the fireplace. Winter holidays like Christmas and Hanukkah bring families together for special moments and delicious food. Even though it's cold outside, winter brings warmth to our hearts with all the joy and fun it brings. That's why winter is definitely my favorite season!

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Engage the Reader Model Introductions

Sound Effect

YAWN. THUD! Another tired student's head hits the desk. Many students come to school tired because they didn't go to bed early enough the night before. Students should go to bed at 8:00 p.m., so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.

Question

What would help students do better in school? More sleep! Many students come to school tired because they didn't go to bed early enough the night before. Students should go to bed at 8:00 p.m., so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.

Fact

Kids need about ten hours of sleep every night. Many students come to school tired because they didn't go to bed early enough the night before. Students should go to bed at 8:00 p.m., so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.

Annotations

Engaging Strategy is in bolded red

Facts are in green

Opinion statement is in red

YAWN. THUD! Another tired student's head hits the desk. Many students come to school tired because they didn't go to bed early enough the night before. Students should go to bed at 8:00 p.m. so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.

Students need to be well-rested so they can do their best in school. School can be hard. Everyday students learn new things. Students are very active. They play at recess and are busy in PE. Students need lots of rest so they can do well in class. They need rest so they can do well in PE and have fun at recess.

Some students might think that 8:00 p.m. is too early to go to bed. It might take a while for students to get used to the change but it will be better in the end. They will be able to wake up more easily in the morning. Parents won't have to work so hard to get them out of bed. They will be able to do better at school.

Every student should be in bed by 8:00 p.m. for a good night's sleep. Some students come to school tired and struggle with their school work. They don't have the energy to play during recess. It is important for students to get more sleep. They may not like it at first, but in the end, it will be one of the best decisions they will ever make.

Annotated Opinion of a Topic Model
Waking Up with Energy to Learn

YAWN. THUD! Another tired student's head hits the desk. Many students come to school tired because they didn't go to bed early enough the night before. **Students should go to bed at 8:00 p.m.*, so they can get plenty of rest for school the next day.**

Students need to be well-rested so they can do their best in school. **First of all,** school can be hard. Everyday students learn new things. **For Example, math takes a lot of concentration. When a student is tired, it is hard to remember information or how to solve equations.** **Secondly,** students are very active. They play at recess and are busy in PE. Students need lots of rest so they can do well in class. They need rest so they can do well in PE and have fun at recess.

Some students might think that 8:00 p.m. is too early to go to bed. Though, it might take a while for students to get used to the change, **but** it will be better in the end. They will be able to **wake up more easily in the morning. Parents won't have to work so hard to get them out of bed. When they arrive at school they will be less likely to feel sleepy and will be happier because they did not fight with their parents to get out of bed.** **Well-rested** students will be able to do better in school.

In conclusion, every student should be in bed by 8:00 p.m. for a good night's sleep. Some students come to school tired and struggle with their school work. They ~~don't~~ **often do not** have the energy to play during recess. It is

important for students to get more sleep. They may not like it at first, but in the end*, it will be one of the best decisions they will ever make.

Annotations

Engaging strategy with the clear opinion is in red and underlined

Reasons and evidence for the opinion are in green

Audience awareness is in purple

Transition words and phrases 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**

Formal vs Informal Voice

Hey there! So, you know what? I've been trying this new thing lately where I go to bed super early, like way before my usual bedtime. And guess what? It's been kinda awesome! I used to stay up late watching TV or playing games, but now I'm hitting the sack early like a champ. And you know what else? I feel way more energized in the morning, and I'm totally rocking it at school! No more yawning in class or struggling to stay awake during lessons. Going to bed early might sound boring, but trust me, it's totally worth it if you wanna rock your school day!

Ensuring a sufficient amount of sleep is crucial for success in school. Establishing a consistent bedtime routine, where you go to bed early each night, is essential. When you get enough rest, your brain is ready to learn and remember new things. You'll feel more awake and focused during class, making it easier to understand lessons and do your best on assignments and tests. So, remember to prioritize sleep by going to bed early, because a well-rested mind is key to doing well in school!

Name _____ Date _____

Formal vs Informal Voice Practice

Read each sentence and indicate if it's formal or informal. Note keywords that helped you decide.

Sentence	Formal or Informal	Key words
1. Establishing a routine of going to bed early ensures students are well-rested, giving them optimal brain function and attentiveness during classroom instruction.		
2. You know what? I started going to bed earlier, and now I'm my tests! It really works!		
3. Dude, if you wanna rock it in school, you gotta get some shut-eye early. No more late-night gaming sessions!		
4. By creating habits that promote early bedtime, students enhance their ability to retain information, comprehend complex concepts, and demonstrate proficiency in academic endeavors.		
5. Hey, going to bed early might seem lame, but it seriously helps you crush it in school. Give it a shot!		
6. The relationship between sufficient sleep and academic performance is well-documented and shows the necessity of prioritizing rest to excel in school.		

Transition Practice

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

As	Although	The second fact is
Often times	To begin with	However

There are two uncommon facts about Monarch Butterflies. _____, they are fantastic travelers. _____, winter approaches they migrate to the south. _____ they travel over 1000 miles in one direction. _____ the monarch has a twin called the viceroy. _____, slightly smaller, the viceroy looks very much like the monarch. _____ the viceroy has a small circular band on each back wing.¹

¹Passage adapted from Butterflies by Malcom Whyte

Answer Key

There are two uncommon facts about Monarch Butterflies. To begin with, they are fantastic travelers. As, winter approaches they migrate to the south. Often times they travel 1000 miles in one direction. The second fact is the monarch has a twin called the viceroy. Although, slightly smaller, the viceroy looks very much like the monarch. However the viceroy has a small circular band on each back wing.

Revision: Opinion of a Topic

4th Grade

Name _____ Date _____

Partner _____ Rubric Score _____

Self

Partner

Genre Chart

___ ___ **Uses an engaging introduction that states a clear opinion**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Organizes information to support the opinion**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Supports the opinion with reasons and evidence**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Shows an awareness of the audience**

Suggestions: _____

___ ___ **Uses transition words and phrases 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)