

Opinion Writing and types of Opinion Writing

Opinion writing states a claim and gives the writer's views on a topic. It persuades readers to think or feel a certain way or calls them to take some action.

You can find opinion writing in many places:

Letters to an editor- Book Reviews-Magazine Articles-Newspaper Columns-Editorial-Feature

Opinion Writing Traits

Ideas

- A. A clear opinion in a thesis statement
- B. Strong supporting reasons and facts
- C. Counterclaims anticipated and addressed

Organization

- A. A logical organization: the introduction includes an opinion, the body includes a strong argument, and the conclusion ends with a summary or call to action
- B. Effective transitions that link opinions and reasons

Voice

A voice and tone those are appropriate for the purpose and audience

Word Choice

Language that is fair, balanced, and precise

Sentence Fluency

A variety of sentences that add interest to the writing and are easy to read

Conventions

No or few errors in grammar, usage, mechanics, and spelling

Goals

- A. To state the writer's opinion
- B. To support the opinion with logically ordered reasons reinforced by unbiased facts and details

Opinion Writing Example

Opinion

I think students at Sargodha University should not have to wear uniforms. Many people believe that a dress code allows students to focus on their studies. However, other Universities that do not have dress codes also receive excellent academic rankings. In addition, the uniforms are uncomfortable and

expensive. Consequently, the administration should let the students at Sargodha University wear their own clothes.

Reason

I think students at Sargodha University should not have to wear uniforms. Many people believe that a dress code allows students to focus on their studies. However, **other Universities that do not have dress codes also receive excellent academic rankings**. In addition, the **uniforms are uncomfortable**. Consequently, the administration should let the students at Sargodha University wear their own clothes.

Linking Words and Phrases

I think students at Sargodha University should not have to wear uniforms. Many people believe that a dress code allows students to focus on their studies. **However**, other Universities that do not have dress codes also receive excellent academic rankings. **In addition**, the uniforms are uncomfortable.

Consequently, the administration should let the students at Sargodha University wear their own clothes.

Concluding Statement

I think students at Sargodha University should not have to wear uniforms. Many people believe that a dress code allows students to focus on their studies. However, other Universities that do not have dress codes also receive excellent academic rankings. In addition, the uniforms are uncomfortable. **Consequently, the administration should let the students at Sargodha University wear their own clothes.**

Editorial: The Official voice of Organization

Column: A personal opinion of writer published regularly under permanent title

Article: A personal opinion of writer published irregular under various titles

Review: An opinion that evaluates a book, draft, story, event, product or service

Feature: A comprehensive detailed story mostly on social issue, personality interview etc. Its not about the news but the human interest. Narrative about the human element of life.

Opinion Writing Structure

Opening: State your opinion clearly

Body: Give reasons and examples that supports your opinion

Facts and Analysis: Give facts and analyze situation in accordance to the given facts

Conclusion: Give suggestion/recommendation or concluding statement

It doesn't matter whether you're a full-time reporter, a part-time blogger, or a freelancer, all writers need a steady source of feature story ideas. Sometimes, a great feature story will land in your lap, but as a seasoned journalist will tell you, relying on chance is no way to build a portfolio of impressive writing. It takes diligence and hard work, writers say.

Tips for Writers

Always take notes: You may discover a great subject for a story on your way to the grocery store or meet by chance at a social event. Inspiration can strike at any time. Keep a small notebook or use a note-taking app on your smartphone to jot down ideas as they strike you.

Listen: When you do interview someone, remember to let them do most of the talking. Ask questions that can't be answered with a simple yes or no, such as, "Tell me how that made you feel?"

Keep an open mind: It's easy to make snap judgments and assumptions, but a good writer must keep his or her prejudices at bay. Your job is to be objective and learn as much about your subject as possible.

Pay attention: How do your sources behave? What does the location look like? What events are occurring? Information like this, as well as direct quotes from a source, will give your reader a fuller appreciation of your writing and subject matter.

Accuracy matters: Check all of your data to make sure they're accurate, triple-check facts, and make sure you've proofread for spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors. Remember, it takes a long time to develop a reputation for fairness and accuracy, but just a single mistake to tarnish it.

Ideas and Topics

Features convey information and facts just like a breaking news story. But a feature is usually much longer and more nuanced than a hard news story, which usually just contains the most relevant or recent factual information. Features allow room for analysis and interpretation, narrative progression, and other elements of rhetorical or creative writing.

These five topics are a good place to start if you're looking for feature ideas. Some topics may require days or even weeks of research before you can write a story, while other subjects can be covered in just a few hours.

Profile: Interview a prominent or interesting person in your community and write a profile of them. Possible profile subjects could include the mayor, a judge, a musician or writer, a military veteran, a professor or teacher, or a small business owner.

Live-in: Arrange to spend some time at a local homeless shelter, hospital emergency room, nursing home, police precinct or courthouse. Describe the rhythms of the place and the people who work there.

News: Talk to community leaders about local issues and trends. Crime, education, taxes, and development are perennial topics of interest to readers, but sports, arts, and cultural events are also newsworthy. Potential sources include city council members, community and grassroots organizations, and local institutions.

On-the-spot: Cover an event in your community and write a story on deadline about it. Ideas could include the opening of an art exhibit, a talk by a visiting lecturer or expert, a charity event like a fundraising run, a parade, and so on.

Review: Attend the production of a local concert, play or other cultural event and write a review. Or interview the musicians or actors involved and write a story about them.

Techniques for writing a news article differ from those needed for academic papers. Whether you're interested in writing for a school newspaper, fulfilling a requirement for a class, or seeking a writing job in journalism, you'll need to know the difference. To write like a real reporter, consider this guide for how to write a news article.

Choose Your Topic

First, you must decide what to write about. Sometimes an editor or instructor will give you assignments, but you'll often have to find your own topics to cover.

If you get to choose your topic, you might be able to pick a subject related to your personal experience or family history, which would give you a strong framework and a dose of perspective. However, this route means you must work to avoid bias—you may have strong opinions that could affect your conclusions. You also could pick a topic that revolves around a personal interest, such as your favorite sport.

Research for Your News Article

Even if you end up with a topic close to your heart, you should begin with research, using books and articles that will give you a full understanding of the subject. Go to the library and find background information about people, organizations, and events you intend to cover.

Next, interview a few people to collect more information and quotes that give perspective on the topic. Don't be intimidated by the idea of interviewing important or newsworthy people—an interview can be as formal or informal as you want to make it, so relax and have fun with it. Find people with backgrounds in the topic and strong opinions, and carefully write down or record their responses for accuracy. Let the interviewees know that you will be quoting them.

Parts of a News Article

Before you write your first draft, you should be aware of the parts that make up a news story:

Headline or title

The headline of your article should be catchy and to the point. You should punctuate your title using Associated Press style guidelines unless your publication specifies something else. Other members of the publication staff frequently write the headlines, but this will help focus your thoughts and maybe save those other staffers some time.

Examples:

"Lost dog finds his way home"

"Debate tonight in Jasper Hall"

"Panel chooses 3 essay winners"

Byline

The byline is the name of the writer—your name, in this case.

Lead

The lead is the first sentence or paragraph, written to provide a preview of the entire article. It summarizes the story and includes many of the basic facts. The lead will help readers decide if they want to read the rest of the news article or if they are satisfied knowing these details.

The story

Once you've set the stage with a good lead, follow up with a well-written story that contains facts from your research and quotes from people you've interviewed. The article should not contain your opinions. Detail any events in chronological order. Use the active voice—not passive voice—when possible, and write in clear, short, direct sentences.

In a news article, you should use the inverted pyramid format—putting the most critical information in the early paragraphs and following with supporting information. This ensures that the reader sees the important details first. Hopefully they'll be intrigued enough to continue to the end.

The sources

Include your sources in the body with the information and quotes they provide. This is different from academic papers, where you would add these at the end of the piece.

The ending

Your conclusion can be your last bit of information, a summary, or a carefully chosen quote to leave the reader with a strong sense of your story.