

Opinion Writing Checklist Grade 4
North Smithfield School Department

Student _____ **Date** _____

Writing Process

- With guidance and support I strengthened my writing as needed by:
 - planning/prewriting
 - revising/drafting
 - editing/revising

Purpose: Opinion

- I introduced a topic or text clearly.
- I stated an opinion.
- I created an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose. (W.4.1a)
 - introduction paragraph
 - supporting paragraph (2 minimum)
 - concluding paragraph
- I provided reasons that are supported by facts and details. (W.4.1b)
 - three reasons including at least two with researched facts
- I linked opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (connecting words) e.g.,
 - for example
 - in order to
 - in addition.
- I provided a concluding paragraph related to the opinion presented.
 - restates opinion
 - restates reasons

Language

- I showed an understanding of:
 - spelling
 - usage
 - capitalization
 - punctuation
 - paragraphing
- This is my very best writing.
- I read my writing aloud to listen for any errors.

- **uses dialogue and description of characters' actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.**
 - *I asked "where are you going"? "Just for a drive" she replied. She had a worried expression on her face.*
 - *I knew something was wrong.*
 - *I went to my room and cried.*
 - *The next day I still worried. I worried all through school.*
 - *Her eyes started to fill with tears as she answered my question with 3 words, "I don't know," she burst into tears. So did I. She hugged me.*
 - *I went outside and sat in moms rocking chair. I cried some more.*
 - *I've got over them leaving because mom says we can get 2 new puppies very soon.*
- **provides a sense of closure.**
 - *I've got over them leaving because mom says we can get 2 new puppies very soon.*
- **demonstrates growing command of the conventions of standard written English (with occasional errors that do not interfere materially with the underlying message).**

Student Sample: Grade 4, Argument (Opinion)

This argument was produced in class, and the writer likely received feedback from her teacher and peers.

Zoo Field Trip

Dear Mr. _____ and Mrs. _____,

We have a problem. The wildlife here in _____ is very limited. There is not a lot of opportunity to learn about conservation and wildlife preservation. If we took a field trip to _____ our problem would be solved. _____, _____, _____ and I would like to take our class for a great learning experience. In addition, we will provide a study guide to _____ to identify the animals and provide information about conservation of endangered wildlife.

If we went on a field trip, we will learn about the wildlife from around the world and how _____ provides a natural habitat for them to live and breed. This information would help us to understand the importance of science in our day to day life. We would use math to make a budget and figure out a way to earn money. These skills will be very useful again and again. We will learn how to make a schedule with target dates. This will provide us with a plan that covers the entire project from start to finish. The preparation of the study guide will require lots of research and organization of information.

The first thing to do is research, research, research! Next, we will choose a fund raiser (with your approval, of course). This will earn money for the field trip. The parents will hopefully chip in their time and money, if we don't get enough. We will prepare a plan schedule. This will provide the dates that team members will need to accomplish the steps toward our goal. My competent adult model is the Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World. It shows us step by step how to plan a trip and what to see.

Now, you are asking why should I approve a trip to _____? How does this help _____ and the students? Besides the fact that the project planning, fund raising, budgeting and reporting will provide an excellent learning opportunity, it will provide education. It will also provide awareness of wildlife and the importance of conservation. This project will be evaluated by its successful planning and its ability to involve our class in wildlife conservation. The trip will be evaluated by the student participation on the trip and a plan of conservation that identifies what we can all do to protect and respect wildlife so they will still be around when we have children.

Sincerely,

Annotation

The writer of this piece

- **introduces a topic clearly, states an opinion, and creates an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.**
 - *We have a problem. The wildlife here in _____ is very limited. There is not a lot of opportunity to learn about conservation and wildlife preservation. If we took a field trip to _____ our problem would be solved. _____, _____, _____ and I would like to take our class for a great learning experience.*
- **provides reasons that are supported by facts and details.**
 - *If we went on a field trip, we will learn about the wildlife from around the world and how _____ provides a natural habitat for them to live and breed. This information would help us to understand the importance of science in our day to day life. We would use math to make a budget and figure out a way to earn money . . . We will learn how to make a schedule with target dates . . . The preparation of the study guide will require lots of research and organization of information.*

- **links opinion and reasons using words and phrases.**
 - *The first thing to do . . . Next . . . Now, you are asking . . . Besides the fact . . .*
- **provides a concluding section related to the opinion presented.**
 - The final paragraph details possible objections to the field trip and argues against each one:

Now, you are asking why should I approve a trip to _____?. . . Besides the fact that the project planning, fund raising, budgeting and reporting will provide an excellent learning opportunity, it will provide education. It will also provide awareness of wildlife and the importance of conservation.
- **demonstrates exemplary command of the conventions of standard written English.**
 - This piece has been edited by student response groups as well as by adults, so it is nearly flawless in terms of observing the conventions of standard written English.