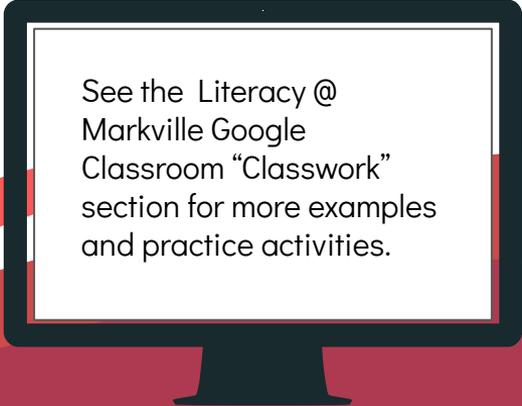


# Series of Opinion Paragraphs A.K.A. The Essay Winter Literacy Blitz #2A

Students please log on to the  
**Literacy @ Markville  
Secondary School Google  
Classroom**

Join Code: **mzbi4cr**



See the Literacy @  
Markville Google  
Classroom “Classwork”  
section for more examples  
and practice activities.



## **Target:**

- Identify the elements of a successful series of paragraphs supporting an opinion
- Plan an effective series of paragraphs supporting an opinion by identifying a set of supporting details
- Identify ways to improve my writing

## **Focus Question:**

How can I best express my opinion on a topic and convince someone I am right?



# What you need to know:

- The topic will be current and familiar to teens.
- You must write an intro, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- You must state a clear opinion. No fence sitting!
- You must support your opinion with clear facts, examples and reasons. (You can make these up).

# Here's What You Will See:

eg.

**Task:** Write a **minimum** of **three paragraphs** expressing an **opinion** on the topic below. Develop your main idea with supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.).

**Purpose and Audience:** an adult who is interested in your opinion

**Length:** The lined space provided for your written work indicates the approximate length of the writing expected.

**Topic:** Should school be held all year long?

# Getting Ready To Write:

- **Brainstorm BOTH sides** of the argument.
  - **Create a T-chart** to help you organize your ideas.
- Try to come up with at least **3 points per side.**
- **Argue the side that has the most points.**



Yes, school should be all year.	No, school should NOT be all year.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students won't forget everything they learned over the summer</li><li>• Parents and students have more flexible vacation time</li><li>• Parents don't have to arrange babysitting or day-care for two months</li><li>• It keeps students busy and out of trouble – no time to be bored!</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Students need the time off to work at summer jobs</li><li>• Students are under a lot of pressure and deserve a break</li><li>• School buildings are hot and uncomfortable in the summer</li></ul>

# Planning Your Essay

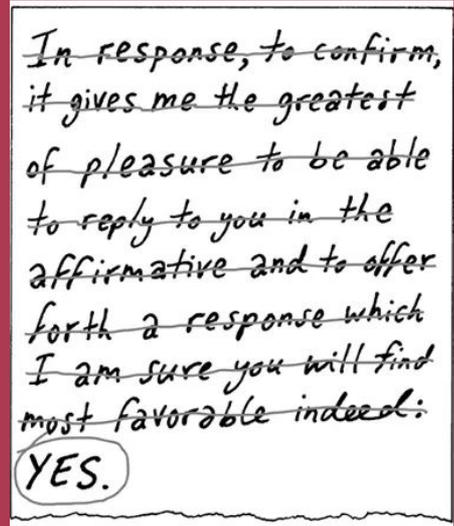
- ❑ Organize your points in the order you want to talk about them.
- ❑ These will become your body paragraphs.
- ❑ Plan your introduction.
- ❑ State your opinion.
- ❑ Introduce your paragraph topics.
- ❑ Begin writing.
- ❑ Fill the space!



# After Writing:

## Check your work. Have I:

- Clearly stated my opinion in the first paragraph?
- Argued only ONE side of the argument?
- Used clear topic sentences to start each paragraph?
- Used specific examples in each paragraph to support my ideas?
- Summarized my opinion in my conclusion?
- Used transitional words (ex. Also, secondly, finally) to link my ideas?
- Clearly marked new paragraphs by indenting them or leaving a line blank between them?
- Used correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation?
- Used content that is appropriate for an adult?
- Used a minimum of 3 paragraphs?



Write your series of paragraphs on the lines provided on the following test paper.

**Rough Notes**  
Use the space below for rough notes. Nothing you write in this space will be scored.

**Tip 3: Organize**

**Tip 2: Think**

Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ centralizes</li> <li>+ looking good (not)</li> <li>+ sound names</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- symmetry</li> <li>- style</li> <li>- hygiene</li> </ul>

Write your opinion in the first balloon, then write your key supporting ideas, plus details & facts in the three bubbles below it.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=2&v=yaT1T9ObyLY&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=yaT1T9ObyLY&feature=emb_logo)

## Student Activity

1. Using the following slides, **study the rubric** for “A Series of Opinion Paragraphs”.
2. Briefly **read over the two example essays** provided.
3. In pairs, discuss **what “mark”/code you think these essays earned** (use the rubric on slide 11).
4. **Discuss as a class**

**Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development  
Section VI Opinion Question 1**

Code	Descriptor
<b>Blank</b>	The pages are blank with nothing written or drawn in the space provided.
<b>Illegible</b>	The response is illegible, or irrelevant to the prompt.
<b>Off topic</b>	The response is off topic.
<b>Code 10</b>	The response is related to the prompt but does not express an opinion. <b>OR</b> The response expresses an opinion with no supporting details or provides details unrelated to the opinion. There is no evidence of organization.
<b>Code 20</b>	The response is related to the prompt, but only part of the response expresses and supports an opinion. <b>OR</b> The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, but the opinion is unclear or inconsistent. There are insufficient supporting details: too few or repetitious. There is limited evidence of organization.
<b>Code 30</b>	The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion. There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details or the connection of the details to the opinion is not always clear. There is evidence of organization, but lapses distract from the overall communication.
<b>Code 40</b>	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient supporting details, however only some are specific. The organization is mechanical and any lapses do not distract from the overall communication.
<b>Code 50</b>	The response is related to the prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details. The organization is logical.
<b>Code 60</b>	The response is related to the assigned prompt. A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details that are thoughtfully chosen. The organization is coherent demonstrating a thoughtful progression of ideas.

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Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?

No, they aren't. Teenagers can live without cell phones. Talking and texting all the time isn't necessary. A lot of teenagers will text someone who is sitting beside them. That's silly!

Cell phones are valuable and lots of teens lose the phones. This to me is wasting money.

Families like to spend time with their kids and if the kids are texting or sending or getting calls it is annoying to their families.

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Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?

Yes cell phones are necessary in teenagers' lives. They are necessary because there are many advantages to having a cell phone. Without cellphones, teenagers wouldn't be able to communicate easily with their family, peers and in emergency situations.

Cell phones are necessary in teenagers' lives because, it is an easy way of contacting your family. If you have to stay at school longer for a specific reason or your family is looking for you and you are out, cell phones make it easy to communicate. Without cell phones, your family would be worried sick, they wouldn't know exactly where you are, and how much longer you would be. With cellphones, they could contact you right away, without having to worry about anything.

Cellphones are also necessary for teenagers to contact each other. That is necessary because it is important to talk with your peers, and find out if you have any homework.

It is also important to contact your peers because, it is good to go out and get fresh air and exercise, instead of staying home and playing video games and going on the computer. Cellphones make it easier to contact one another, to make plans.

Another reason why cellphones are necessary in teenagers' lives is for emergency reason. If you are alone and walking somewhere, and suddenly have been attacked or have an allergic reaction or have fallen down and broken something, it would be life threatening, not having a cell phone. If you don't have a cell phone you couldn't call for help, and could be at risk.

So that is why it is essential for teenagers' to have cell phones, because without them, it could be very difficult to enjoy life, and it could even be a short life, if something bad happens and you don't have a phone.

Scoring Guide for Long Writing Topic Development  
Section VI Opinion Question 1

Code  
30

Opinion  
Topic Development  
Code 30

Sample 1

Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?

No, they aren't. Teenagers can  
live without cell phones. Talking and  
texting all the time.  
A lot of teenagers  
sitting beside the phone.  
Cell phones are  
teens lose the phone  
wasting money.  
Families like  
kids and if the phone  
or getting calls  
families.



**Annotation:**

The response is related to the prompt and expresses a clear opinion (*No, they aren't*).

There are insufficient and/or vague supporting details. Reasons (*teenagers will text someone who is sitting beside them; teens lose the phones; texting or sending or getting calls...is annoying to their families*) are listed but not developed.

There is evidence of organization. The introduction states the opinion. There is evidence of paragraphing. Some paragraphs have concluding sentences (*That's silly!, This to me is wasting money.*). There is no conclusion to the response.

Code  
50

Opinion  
ment

Are cellphones necessary in teenagers' lives?

2

Yes cell phones are necessary in teenagers' lives. They are necessary because there are many advantages to having a cell phone. Without cellphones, teenagers wouldn't be able to communicate easily with their family, peers and in emergency situations.

Cell phones are necessary in teenagers' lives because, it is an easy way of contacting your family. If you have to stay at school longer for a specific reason or your family is looking for you and cell phones make it easy to call cell phones, your family would know exactly how much longer you would stay and they could contact you and have to worry about

Cellphones are also necessary to contact each other. That's because it is important to contact peers, and find out if you

It is also important to contact your peers because, it is good to go out and get fresh air and exercise, instead of staying home and playing video games and going on the computer. Cell phones make it easier to contact one another, to make plans.

Another reason why cellphones are necessary in teenagers' lives is for emergency reasons. If you are alone and walking somewhere, and suddenly have been attacked or have an allergic reaction or have fallen down and broken something, it would be life threatening, not having a cell phone. If you don't have a cell phone you couldn't call for help, and could be at risk.



### Annotation:

A clear and consistent opinion is developed with sufficient specific supporting details (e.g., contacting family, contact each other, contact peers to make plans, emergency call for help). Reasons are developed with examples and explanations.

The organization is logical. There is a clear introduction, body and conclusion. Ideas are clustered into paragraphs. Each paragraph includes a clear topic sentence. Links between ideas are indicated (also, because, Another reason why ..., So that is why ...).

# Planning Your Essay Student Activity (Google Classroom)

This student activity has been shared with students through the **“Literacy At Markville Google Classroom”** or they can access it there under the “classworks” section and make a copy.

[Link to Activity](#)



# Thanks!

Please email or see Ms. Wilson in the Library  
for questions?

[michelle.e.wilson@gapps.yrdsb.ca](mailto:michelle.e.wilson@gapps.yrdsb.ca)