Opinion Essay

An opinion essay’s purpose is to convince, persuade, or refute an issue. The writer develops an argument or position and then includes support for the opinion in the form of specific reasons or examples.

You may already use persuasion in your everyday life. When you convince a friend to do something for a good cause (walk-a-thon, candy sale) or talk your employer into a personal leave day off. The process of persuasion used in writing is no different. You still need to develop a compelling argument and give reasons to support that position.

Please choose a topic below and write an opinion essay with supporting reasons and examples.

1. First, identify your opinion on the topic (agree, disagree, or discuss both)
2. Then, brainstorm reasons why you have this opinion. Be sure to include very specific examples
3. Use the pink organizational cluster sheet to organize your reasons and examples (try to identify at least two reasons and three examples of each)
4. Begin to write the essay and include a strong topic sentence that speaks to the topic of the essay
5. Develop an introductory paragraph, body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph
6. Read and revise your essay
7. Proofread and evaluate your essay using the self-evaluation checklists

Topic Choices:

“It always strikes me as a terrible shame to see young people spending so much of their time watching television. If we unplugged all the television sets, our children would grow up healthier, better educated and more independent human being.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Write an essay and include your opinion and examples and reasons to support your point of view.

Should every able-bodied citizen be required to serve for a certain period of time in some branch of the military service? Why or why not?

Was giving eighteen-year-olds the right to vote a mistake? Give reasons and examples to support your point of view.

In your opinion do you feel that smokers should have the right to smoke in public places? The current law does not allow smokers the right to smoke in public places, such as restaurants, buildings and airports. Do you agree or disagree with this practice? Be sure to use reasons and examples to support your position.

In your opinion should both parents assume equal responsibility in child rearing? Explain why or why not.
The constitution guarantees an individual’s right to bare arms. Do you feel that individuals should have the right to gun ownership, or do you believe there should be some gun control measures instituted? Be sure to give examples to support your point of view.