



How to...

DID YOU KNOW?

The English word "opinion" comes from the Latin word *opinio*, meaning "belief" or "what one thinks."



Write an opinion piece

Find out how you can persuade others to understand your point of view.

One way to express your opinion is to write about it. In an opinion article, a writer explains why their view is one that other people should consider agreeing with. Many newspapers have a section for these articles (often called op-eds), or they may publish letters to the editor from readers. Your school newspaper may also publish opinion pieces. Here's how to write your own.

Choose a subject that's personal to you

If you write about something that affects you personally, you'll have more to say about it. Think about events happening in your community or school. For example, maybe there is a proposal to upgrade your town's playground but some residents oppose the cost. Check out the box at right for a list of topics you may have a strong opinion about.

Support your perspective

First, state your opinion. Then give two or three facts that support your viewpoint. Use your own experience to strengthen it. For example, you might write, "I think a new playground is necessary because many kids in the community have gotten hurt on the current equipment." Notice the inclusion of the word

"because." Using "because" in your article allows you to clearly state the evidence that supports your opinion.

Research the other side

In journalism, a reporter presents the facts without including their opinion (known as being objective). For an opinion article, a writer doesn't have to present both sides of a topic. However, showing that you are aware of opposing views and including them in your article could make it stronger. You might write, "I know a new playground will cost the town money. However, I still believe it will benefit us because safe playgrounds support healthy activity."

End with a call to action

Once you've made your supporting points in your opinion article, give readers a next step, known as a call to action. You could write something like

"We must act together now" and provide the date of the next town meeting when the playground upgrade will be discussed. Ask an adult to proofread your article, then submit it to your school or local newspaper. Even if your work isn't published, writing it is a great way to practice expressing your opinion.



Support your opinion with facts.

Topics to consider



Here are some previous Big Debate topics that have been published in *The Week Junior*. If you feel strongly about one of them, that could be the subject of your opinion article.

Should letter grades no longer be used?

Are board games better than video games?

Should school dress codes be eliminated?

Do communities need more skate parks?

Should middle and high schools have recess?

Are dogs better pets than cats?