

Opinion Paragraph Builder

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Your full-unit project. You will add one part each lesson. By the end you will have a complete opinion paragraph you planned, wrote, revised, and published.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Introduction	Body	Conclusion
hook + topic sentence	reasons + details	restate + clincher

Lesson 1 - My Topic and My Reasons

My opinion topic is:

My opinion (what I believe). Start with I think or I believe:

Brainstorm: why do I believe this? List reasons, then a detail or example for each.

My reason	A detail or example

Grade 6 challenge: aim for three strong reasons and make sure each detail truly supports your opinion.

Lesson 2 - My Introduction

A strong introduction has a hook (grabs the reader) and a topic sentence (states your opinion clearly).

Hook menu - try one:

- A question: Have you ever wondered why ... ?
- A surprising fact: Did you know that ... ?
- A bold statement: Everyone should ...
- A tiny story: Last week, I ...

My hook:

My topic sentence (states my opinion clearly):

Check: Can a reader tell exactly what I think from my topic sentence? [☐] Yes [☐] Not yet

Lesson 3 - My Body

The body gives your reasons, adds details, and uses transition words to connect ideas.

Transition word bank:

First, Second, Also, Another reason, In addition, For example, Most importantly, Finally

Reason 1 - use a transition word:

Detail or example for reason 1:

Reason 2 - use a transition word:

Detail or example for reason 2:

Reason 3 (Grade 6) - use a transition word:

Detail or example for reason 3:

Unity check: does every sentence stay on my topic? ☐ Yes ☐ I will fix one

Lesson 4 - My Conclusion

A conclusion restates your opinion in a fresh way and ends with a clincher. Do not add a brand-new reason.

Restate my opinion in new words:

My clincher - pick one and write it:

- A call to action: So next time, ...
- A final thought: That is why ...
- A question for the reader: Wouldn't you agree that ... ?

Lesson 5 - Put It All Together

Good copy: write your whole paragraph. Indent the first line. Introduction, then body, then conclusion.

Revise and edit checklist:

- ☐ My introduction has a hook and a clear topic sentence.
- ☐ My body has reasons with details.
- ☐ My conclusion restates my opinion and has a clincher.
- ☐ I used capital letters, end marks, and my best spelling.
- ☐ Grade 6: I used transition words, stayed on topic, and fixed any run-ons or fragments.

Self-assessment - circle one for each:

I can write a clear topic sentence. Not yet / Getting there / Yes

I can support my opinion with reasons and details. Not yet / Getting there / Yes

I can write a conclusion that wraps up my paragraph. Not yet / Getting there / Yes

I can revise and edit to make my writing better. Not yet / Getting there / Yes

Activity 1: Paragraph Parts Detective

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 1 practice. Read the paragraph. Label each part, then answer the questions.

Recess should be longer. First, kids need a break to focus in class. Moving around helps our brains reset. Also, longer recess gives us time to be active and healthy. For these reasons, our school should make recess longer.

1. Underline the topic sentence (the introduction).
2. Draw a box around the body (the reasons and details).
3. Circle the conclusion (the sentence that wraps it up).
4. Which of the three parts states the writer's opinion?

5. Match each part to its job:

Part	Its job
Introduction	gives reasons and details
Body	wraps up and restates the opinion
Conclusion	states the opinion and grabs the reader

The jobs above are mixed up on purpose. Draw a line to the correct match.

Grade 6 challenge: In one sentence, explain why a paragraph needs all three parts.

Activity 2: Hook and Topic Sentence Workout

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 2 practice. Warm up your openings.

Part A. Name each hook type (question, fact, bold statement, or short story):

1. "Did you know a kid laughs about 300 times a day?"

2. "Homework should be banned."

3. "Have you ever felt too tired to think after lunch?"

4. "Last summer, I read 20 books in one month."

Part B. Upgrade each weak topic sentence so it clearly states an opinion:

Weak: "Dogs are animals."

Weak: "This is about video games."

Part C. Write a hook and a topic sentence for YOUR opinion topic:

Hook:

Topic sentence:

Activity 3: Reasons, Details, and Transitions

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Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 3 practice. Build a strong body.

Transition word bank: First, Second, Also, Another reason, In addition, For example, Most importantly, Finally.

Part A. Add a detail or example to each reason.

Opinion: Our class should have a pet fish.

Reason: A pet teaches responsibility. Detail:

Reason: A fish is calming to watch. Detail:

Part B. Add a transition word to start each sentence:

_____, a fish is easy to care for.

_____, it does not make noise.

Part C. Unity check. One sentence does NOT belong. Cross it out:

Skateboarding is great exercise. It builds balance and strength. My cousin has a red bike. It is also a fun way to see friends.

Grade 6 challenge: write one more reason with a transition word and a detail:

Activity 4: Wrap It Up

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 4 practice. Finish strong.

Part A. Which ending is stronger, A or B? Circle it and say why.

A. "So that is my paragraph. The end."

B. "For all these reasons, a longer recess would help every student. Let's make it happen."

Why:

Part B. Restate this topic sentence in a new way for a conclusion:

Topic sentence: "Kids should read every day."

Part C. Write a clincher for the same topic. Pick a call to action, a final thought, or a question:

Grade 6 challenge: Explain why a conclusion should not add a brand-new reason.

Activity 5: Revise and Edit Detective

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson 5 practice. Find and fix the problems, then check the paragraph.

Here is a rough paragraph. It has mistakes to fix.

i think summer is the best season. you can swim every day it is warm and sunny. Also you get a long break from school. because there is so much to do outside. summer is the best

1. Fix the capital letters and end marks (there are several).
2. Find the run-on sentence and split it into two.
3. Find the fragment (an incomplete sentence) and fix it.
4. The conclusion is missing an end mark and a clincher. Improve it:

Checklist - tick each once you have checked it:

- ☐ Capitals at the start of every sentence and for I.
- ☐ An end mark on every sentence.
- ☐ No run-ons and no fragments.
- ☐ The paragraph has all three parts.

Unit Rubric: Opinion Paragraph

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Assessed on the finished paragraph from the Opinion Paragraph Builder. Grade 5 focuses on topic sentence and details; Grade 6 also on unity, coherence, and transitions. Tied to the BC curricular competencies.

Name: _____ Grade (circle): 5 6

Criteria	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
Introduction	No clear opening or opinion.	Has a topic sentence; hook is weak or missing.	Clear topic sentence states the opinion; a hook draws the reader in.	Opening is engaging and the opinion is stated with confidence and style.
Body: reasons and details	Few or unclear reasons; little support.	One or two reasons; some details.	Two to three reasons, each with a supporting detail.	Strong, well-chosen reasons with convincing, specific details.
Conclusion	No real ending.	Restates the opinion but stops flatly.	Restates the opinion and adds a clincher.	Memorable ending that leaves the reader with something to hold.
Organization, unity, transitions (Gr 6)	Ideas are out of order or off topic.	Some order; few transitions; may drift off topic.	Clear order; uses transitions; stays on topic (unity).	Smoothly linked ideas; strong coherence throughout.
Conventions	Many errors make it hard to read.	Some errors in capitals, punctuation, or spelling.	Mostly correct capitals, end marks, and spelling; Gr 6 fixes run-ons and fragments.	Polished; conventions support clear, easy reading.
Writing process	Little planning, revising, or editing shown.	Some steps of the Builder completed.	Planned, drafted, revised, and edited using the Builder.	Thoughtful revision clearly improved the final paragraph.

Teacher comment:

Student I Can Tracker

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Colour or tick a box for each goal: Not yet, Getting there, or Yes. Update it as the unit goes on.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson	I can ...	Not yet	Getting there	Yes
Lesson 1	I can name the three parts of a paragraph.			
Lesson 1	I can choose an opinion topic and list reasons.			
Lesson 2	I can write a hook and a clear topic sentence.			
Lesson 3	I can support my opinion with reasons and details.			
Lesson 3	I can use transition words to connect ideas.			
Lesson 4	I can write a conclusion with a clincher.			
Lesson 5	I can revise and edit to improve my paragraph.			
Lesson 5	I can write a full opinion paragraph with all three parts.			

One thing I am proud of:

One thing I want to work on next:

Teacher Observation Checklist

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Formative, anecdotal evidence across the unit. Use a code in each box: E = emerging, D = developing, P = proficient, X = extending. Add notes below.

Class: _____ Dates: TBD

Student	Names the 3 parts	Writes a clear topic sentence	Reasons with details	Uses transitions / unity	Revises and edits

Anecdotal notes:

End of Unit Concepts Check

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Show what you know about building a strong paragraph.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Name the three parts of a paragraph, in order.

2. What is the job of a topic sentence?

3. Circle the BEST hook:

a) This is my paragraph about pets. b) Did you know a dog can learn 150 words?

4. Underline the transition words: First, my dog is loyal. Also, she keeps me active. Finally, she makes me laugh.

5. One sentence does NOT belong. Which one? Recess is the best. It lets us move and play. My favourite colour is blue. It helps us focus after.

6. Rewrite this weak topic sentence so it clearly states an opinion: "This is about homework."

7. What should a conclusion do? Give two things.

8. Grade 6 challenge: Explain what it means for a paragraph to have unity.

9. Grade 6 challenge: Fix this run-on. "I like winter it is fun to ski."

Write it! Write a short opinion paragraph (3 to 5 sentences) on a topic you choose. Include an introduction, a body with one reason and a detail, and a conclusion.

End of Unit Concepts Check - ANSWER KEY

Grade 5/6 Language Arts - Building a Strong Paragraph

Teacher answer key. Accept reasonable student wording; look for the idea.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Name the three parts of a paragraph, in order.

Answer: *Introduction, body, conclusion.*

2. What is the job of a topic sentence?

Answer: *It states the main idea or opinion clearly (tells the reader what the paragraph is about).*

3. Circle the BEST hook:

a) This is my paragraph about pets. b) Did you know a dog can learn 150 words?

Answer: *b (it grabs the reader with a surprising fact).*

4. Underline the transition words: First, my dog is loyal. Also, she keeps me active. Finally, she makes me laugh.

Answer: *First, Also, Finally.*

5. One sentence does NOT belong. Which one? Recess is the best. It lets us move and play. My favourite colour is blue. It helps us focus after.

Answer: *"My favourite colour is blue." It is off topic (breaks the paragraph's unity).*

6. Rewrite this weak topic sentence so it clearly states an opinion: "This is about homework."

Answer: *Example: "Homework should be shorter on weekends." (Any clear opinion is fine.)*

7. What should a conclusion do? Give two things.

Answer: *Restate the opinion in a new way, and add a clincher (final thought, call to action, or question). It should not add a brand-new reason.*

8. Grade 6 challenge: Explain what it means for a paragraph to have unity.

Answer: *Every sentence supports the same main idea; nothing wanders off topic.*

9. Grade 6 challenge: Fix this run-on. "I like winter it is fun to ski."

Answer: *"I like winter. It is fun to ski." (Or join with a comma and a joining word.)*

Write it! Write a short opinion paragraph (3 to 5 sentences) on a topic you choose. Include an introduction, a body with one reason and a detail, and a conclusion.

Look for: a clear topic sentence, at least one reason with a detail, and a closing that restates the opinion. Grade 6: transitions and correct conventions.