

Student Handout: Unit 3 Lesson 6



What Do You Think About That Decision?

Suggested time: 120 Minutes

What's important in this lesson:

In this final lesson of the unit, you will write a series of paragraphs expressing your opinion about a big decision made by one of the characters in a short story. You can either agree or disagree, but your goal is to persuade a friend who holds opposing views that you are right!

In your writing, focus on the following important elements:

- a topic sentence that is a clear concise opinion statement
- accurate information that includes supporting details (proof, facts, examples)
- a concluding sentence that summarizes the main idea.

And on communicating clearly by

- writing complete sentences
- using proper end punctuation
- using transition words that link ideas.

Complete these steps:

1. Study “How to write supported opinion” Handout 1. Highlight key points. Ask your teacher for clarification.
2. Follow the directions and step-by-step instructions on “How to write supported opinion” Handout 1. This handout outlines the topic. It also deals with
 - Brainstorming
 - Planning
 - Conferencing with your teacher
 - Drafting.
3. Use the “Checklist for a Series of Opinion Paragraphs” Handout 2 and “Rubric: Series of Opinion (Persuasion) Paragraphs” as guides to help you revise your supported opinion.
4. Answer the reflection questions for Unit 3, Lesson 6 in your Writer’s Notebook.

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Hand-in the following to your teacher:

1. Final copy of your supported opinion piece, with rough work.
2. Answers to the Reflection questions for Unit 3, Lesson 6 in your Writer's Notebook.

Questions for the teacher:

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How to Write Supported Opinion (Persuasive Essay)

- Task:** Writes a series of paragraphs (three) expressing an opinion on the topic below. Develop your main idea (opinion) with two supporting details.
- Purpose** To persuade a reader (your friend) who DISAGREES with your opinion.
- Audience:** ***Hint – You are trying to change your friend’s mind***
- Topic:** Do you agree with the big decision the main character makes?

REMEMBER: TO WRITE PERSUASIVELY YOU MUST CONVINCe THE READER TO AGREE WITH YOUR OPINION. TRY TO ANTICIPATE WHAT THE READER MIGHT SAY TO YOU.

- ✓ Have a strong opening paragraph.
- ✓ Be forceful when you give your opinions, but avoid personal attacks.
- ✓ State your opinions clearly and give reasons to support your view.

Brain Storming

Use the T-Chart below to help you form an opinion stating whether or not you believe the character made a good decision.

Does the character _____ **in the short story**
_____ **make a good decision?**

The Decision: _____

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Yes, I do believe the character made a good decision because . . .	No, I don't believe the character made a good decision because . . .
❖	❖
❖	❖
❖	❖

Planning

A. Write your opinion in the space provided.

In my opinion the character _____ in the short story _____

makes a good or a poor decision when he/she _____

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B. List two reasons that support your opinion.

1.

2.

Conferencing

Teacher Comments:

Student's Next Steps:



How to Write a Supported Opinion/Persuasive Essay

Intro Paragraph

Write the first paragraph of your essay.

- (1) State your opinion or main idea in one sentence.
- (2) Write two more sentences adding detail to your first sentence.



Third Paragraph

Write the third and concluding paragraph of your essay.

- (1) Use a clear transition such as “To conclude, you must agree . . .”

- (2) Restate your opinion from the first paragraph in a unique and interesting way.

- (3) Write a strong sentence to remind the reader of your two reasons.

- (4) Finally, this is your last chance to convince the reader to change his or her mind. Write a bold sentence that really gives the reader something to think about.

You are now ready to write your supported opinion.

You may conference with the teacher, if you need guidance.

Carefully, complete the Student Checklist for a Series of Opinion Paragraphs.

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Checklist for a Series of Opinion Paragraphs

Name: _____

Reading

I have...

- read the short stories carefully
- completed organizers

Planning

I have...

- determined my opinion on the topic and considered my reasons for thinking this way
- planned my response with rough notes

Writing

I have...

- written a series of paragraphs in complete sentences
- written an introductory paragraph that clearly presents my opinion; my opinion is my main idea
- written at least three body paragraphs, including sufficient and relevant supporting details (proof, facts, examples, etc.) that explain and give reasons for my opinion
- written a concluding paragraph that summarizes my opinion
- shown an understanding of concepts
- used connecting words and linking sentences
- organized my ideas clearly so my reader can follow and understand my opinion

Revising and Editing

I have...

- used the stages of the writing process to revise my work
- created opinion paragraphs that will appeal to my audience
- created opinion paragraphs that meet my purpose
- checked my grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Producing

I have...

- neatly and clearly written my final copy