

# Opinion Writing Checklist (Grades 6-8)



The purpose of an opinion piece is to convince your audience to agree with your opinion.

## Introduction

- Introduce your claim(s) about a topic or issue clearly and convincingly
- Introduce your supporting reasons in a logical order.
- Establish a formal style

## Body

- Support your claim(s) with more than one reason, introducing them in a logical order
- Provide relevant, accurate data and evidence (to support each reason) that demonstrate an understanding of the topic. (Use only credible sources.)
- Acknowledge and distinguish your claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims
- Use words, phrases and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claims, counterclaims, reasons and evidence.
- Give evidence (facts!) to support each reason.

## Conclusion

- Restate your opinion in a new way and stress how it is based on evidence.
- Tell why your opinion is worth considering
- Describe what action your reader should take, if any.
- Provide a concluding statement that follows from and supports the argument presented.