

Tips for Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

1. On your test, this writing section will be labeled “Writing a series of paragraphs”. You know this task as “the essay”, and you should apply what you already know about essay-writing to this task.
2. The instructions will ask for a minimum of 3 paragraphs. You should plan to write 5 paragraphs: An introduction paragraph, 3 body paragraphs, and a concluding paragraph.
 - a. The introduction paragraph explains your answer to the question. Pick one side. Identify the three reasons why your answer to the question is correct.
 - b. Each of the three body paragraphs explains one of your reasons why your answer to the question is correct, in the order that you presented them in your introduction. You might use examples, comparisons, or a series of details to explain why your answer is correct.
 - c. Your opinion must be based on reasonable facts, but you can make up the details you write about. Your writing skills are being evaluated, not your knowledge of the topic.
 - d. The final paragraph concludes your essay by restating your opinion and summarizing why your answer is correct.
 - e. The response is written in the first-person with a formal, decisive, serious tone. You may use “I” for this part of the test.
 - f. The people who mark the test expect you to check your work for errors to ensure that it can be easily read. It does not have to be perfect. Use words that you can confidently spell correctly and straightforward sentence structures that are easy to read.
3. The essay should fill the space provided (2 pages).