

Weekly Opinion Writing Packet

Name _____

Week _____

You will use a research planning sheet to gather facts and data for an opinion Essay. Then, you will go through the writing process to complete your opinion essay.

USE THE CELL PHONE ARTICLES ATTACHED TO THE NON-FICTION READING PACKET.

You will go through the writing process in one week.

__ (Monday) Read, Plan and Research (Use the Cellphone Articles)

__ (Tuesday) Draft an opinion essay

__ (Wednesday) Edit your opinion essay

__ (Thursday) Revise one part of your opinion essay

__ (Friday) Revise another part, or publish your opinion essay

Write your Draft on a separate paper. Write any revisions on a separate sheet of paper.

Remember to skip a line and indent after each section of your draft.

Do not put each section on a separate sheet of paper.

Use the attached directions and checklists to ensure you have the best drafts.

Keep your planning sheets, draft and revisions in a folder.

3 REASONS TO KEEP CHOCOLATE MILK IN SCHOOLS

Article 1

Got *chocolate* milk? A popular choice among both children and adults, the beverage is not only yummy but also good for you. All milk, flavored or not, has the same unique combination of essential nutrients. Plain and flavored milk include three out of the four nutrients of concern for kids: calcium, vitamin D and potassium. Check out more reasons why chocolate milk is a good choice:

Kids need the nutrients. Milk drinkers meet their needs for calcium, magnesium, potassium and vitamin A much quicker than non-milk drinkers. The Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommends three servings of low-fat or fat-free dairy for children every day.

- o Kids who drink flavored milk consume more nutrients than – yet have a comparable body weight to – children who don't drink milk.
- o Kids who drink flavored milk are less likely to drink soda or juice, which are empty calories with almost no nutritional value.

Kids drink more milk when it's flavored. Children are more likely to get their three daily servings if flavored milk is an option.

- o In schools, 70 percent of milk kids choose is flavored, low-fat chocolate being the most popular choice.
- o Studies have shown that removing flavored milk from schools results in a dramatic drop in milk consumption, which means these kids miss out on essential nutrients.
- o Added sugar is minimal. There has been worry that flavored milk at school contributes to high intake of added sugars in kids, but research shows that flavored milk only contributes 3 percent of added sugars in kids' diets.
- o An 8-ounce serving of chocolate milk has 12 grams of naturally occurring lactose (milk sugar), and chocolate milk in schools has only 8-12 grams of added sugar.

Dairy companies have worked with schools to reduce the amount of sugar by 38 percent – making nearly all of the chocolate milk served in schools less than 150 calories for an 8-ounce serving. In fact, flavored milk only has 31 more calories than white milk.

So go ahead and enjoy the chocolate milk – and encourage your kids to do the same at school. They'll get the essential nutrients they need to grow strong and focus well in school

Article 2: New York City proposal to ban chocolate milk from schools sparks debate.

Link: <https://www.today.com/food/new-york-city-proposal-ban-chocolate-milk-schools-sparks-debate-t162790>

Reading Research — Opinion and Reasons—Monday

Read the 2 articles on cellphones attached to your reading packet. After you read the articles form an opinion, or claim on the topic. “The Chocolate Milk Debate?” You can find and read additional articles to help you find other facts if you want.

Come up with 3 different but related reasons to support your opinion.

Finally, you will write down 3-5 facts from each article to support your reasons.

My Opinion—My Claim

Should chocolate milk be in school?

Reasons and Facts

Reason 1

Reason 2

Reason 3

Facts from articles

Facts from articles

Facts from articles



WRITING — Draft an Opinion Essay—Tuesday

Today, you are going to quickly draft an opinion essay using the claim, reasons and facts from your research the day before.

Your goal is to start and finish the Opinion Essay draft within 1 hour.

- **STAY FOCUSED**. Make sure you stay focused on your Claim and your Reasons. If it doesn't help answer prove your case, do not write it down.
- **KEEP WRITING**. Refer to your plan when you get stuck.
- **USE YOUR CHECKLIST**. Your checklist is everything you need in your essay. If you cannot think of what to write next, look at your checklist and your facts.
- **DO NOT WORRY ABOUT SPELLING**. Spell words the best you can. Spell them how they sound. Circle any word you are unsure about. You can always fix it during the editing phase.
- **BE SPECIFIC**. Avoid words like stuff, things and it unless you have explained what these things are. Your reader cannot read your mind.
- **READREAD**. Once you are finished with your essay, reread it again 2 times.

1st Reread—Does it look right, sound right and make sense.

Did you accidentally forget a word? Did you accidentally write a word twice?

Notice when you pause. Did you add punctuation? (. ? ! ,)

Do you have a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence and with names?

Did you start a sentence with And, But, Because, Or

2nd Reread—Use your checklist. Reread your essay and point to each part of the checklist that is in your essay. If you forget a part, add it in.

Author's Craft—Use an Author's Craft to Explain Your Reasons

List and Explain

Give a list of examples.
Teach about and explain the most important example.

Micro-story / Anecdote

Give a list of examples. Write a short narrative showing a real life example.

Compare and Contrast

Give 2 examples. Explain how they are the same and how they are different.

OPINION ESSAY CHECKLIST

Introduction (10-15 min.)

- ___ Hook (Write a micro-story or teach and explain the topic is)
- ___ Claim (What is your opinion you are trying to prove? This is the **main idea** of your essay)
- ___ 3 Reasons (Give 3 reasons each in its own sentence—Order them in a reasonable way)

Subtopic 1 (Explain your first reason in a paragraph) (10-15 min.)

- ___ Transition word or Phrase (one Reason, another reason, More Importantly,)
- ___ State your reason (the main idea of your subtopic)
- ___ Explain your reason (use 2-3 facts and explain the facts using an author's craft)
- ___ Conclusion (what is a lesson the reader can learn or action they can do)

Subtopic 2 (Explain your second reason in a paragraph) (10-15 min.)

- ___ Transition word or Phrase (one Reason, another reason, More Importantly,)
- ___ State your reason (the main idea of your subtopic)
- ___ Explain your reason (use 2-3 facts and explain the facts using an author's craft)
- ___ Conclusion (what is a lesson the reader can learn or action they can do)

Subtopic 3 (Explain your Third reason in a paragraph) (10-15 min.)

- ___ Transition word or Phrase (one Reason, another reason, More Importantly,)
- ___ State your reason (the main idea of your subtopic)
- ___ Explain your reason (use 2-3 facts and explain the facts using an author's craft)
- ___ Conclusion (what is a lesson the reader can learn or action they can do)

Conclusion (10-15 min.)

- ___ Restate your claim /opinion (Say it again in a new way)
- ___ Restate the reasons (Say them again in a new way, maybe combine them)
- ___ Teach and explain a lesson or action for the reader.

- REREAD** ___ Does it sound right, Extra words, Missing words, Punctuation, Capitals.
___ Reread again to see if you have all the parts of the essay (Use the checklist)

WRITING — Edit/Revise and Publish an Opinion Essay— Wed. to Fri.

Over the next three days you will edit, revise and publish your narrative. When you revise you will read your draft and identify one part you did well, and one part you want to make better. You will rewrite only that part.

WEDNESDAY—EDIT YOUR ESSAY —Reread your Opinion Essay

- ___ **Does it sound right?** Do you have extra words or missing words,
- ___ **Punctuation.** Notice where you pause in your reading. Is there commas and ending Punctuation?
- ___ **Capitals.** Do you have Capitals at the beginning of each sentence, with names, and the word I?
- ___ **Paragraphs.** Is each part of your essay in its own section? Do you indent each new paragraph?
- ___ **Spelling.** Are your words spelled correctly? Use a dictionary, or google to help you spell words.
- ___ **Neatness.** Is your handwriting neat so others can read it? Are you forming your letters correctly?

THURSDAY—REVISE YOUR OPINION ESSAY (reread your essay and find the weakest part)

- ___ **Write a new Introduction.** Change your hook. Rewrite your thesis in a new, more interesting way. Make your examples sound more interesting.
- ___ **Write a new Reason.** Change your transition phrase. Try your subtopic main idea a new way. Try a different author’s craft. Try a new lesson or conclusion.
- ___ **Write a new Conclusion.** Restate your Claim in a new, more interesting way. Restate your reasons in an interesting way. Offer a different lesson or action the reader can do.

FRIDAY—PUBLISH YOUR OPINION ESSAY

- ___ Rewrite or type your narrative using the edited and revised changes.

HINT: What you learned from editing and revising your draft, practice doing it the next time you write your first draft.