

# 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.

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2.

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## 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.

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## Second Paragraph

**Write the second paragraph of your essay.**

- (1) Be sure to begin your paragraph with a transition, such as First or To Begin, followed by a comma.
- (2) State your first reason for your opinion; be sure to make a clear point.
- (3) Write a sentence to prove your point.
- (4) Write another sentence to explain your point.
- (5) State your second reason for your opinion; be sure to use a clear transition, such as, Next or My second reason.
- (6) Write a sentence to prove your point.
- (7) Write another sentence to explain your point.

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## 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