TIPS The Opinion Essay

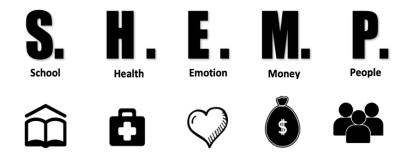
1. Think about the question but don't answer it yet.

Most opinion questions have at least two possible answers – <u>Yes</u> or <u>No</u>. After brainstorming, you will choose either Yes or No (not both!).

Your answer will be the essay's thesis.

2. Brainstorm using a strategy like S.H.E.M.P.

It's difficult to <u>brainstorm</u> when you don't have a focus. <u>S.H.E.M.P.</u> gives you a <u>focus</u>. It stands for:



How would you answer the question if you focused on each one of these categories?

Generate examples for <u>each category</u>. Some of your examples will support the answer Yes and some will support the answer No.

3. Review your brainstorming. Choose a side: Yes or No.

Did you have better examples for Yes or No? <u>Choose a side</u> based on your strongest reasons. Write down your <u>thesis statement</u> in the area of the test where you can keep rough notes. Often, an opinion thesis statement will use the word *should* for yes, and *should not* for no.

4. Organize your ideas in an essay outline.

ESSAY OUTLINE

Introduction Paragraph

Thesis statement

Body Paragraph #1 - School

Example 1 – Example 2 – Example 3 –

Body Paragraph #2 - Health

- Example 1 –
- Example 2 –
- Example 3 –

Body Paragraph #3 - Money

Example 1 – Example 2 – Example 3 –

Conclusion Paragraph

Restate thesis statement

Remember – You have all the time you need. Don't rush.

WRITE

5. Write the introduction paragraph.

Refer to the introduction paragraph builder for help.

6. Write three **body** paragraphs.

Refer to the introduction paragraph builder for help.

7. Write the conclusion paragraph.

Refer to the conclusion paragraph builder for help.

REFLECT

Do I have <u>five paragraphs</u> in total?

 Do I focus on only <u>one category</u> in each paragraph (e.g., School, Health, Money)? It will be the paragraph's main idea.

Do I have <u>three examples</u> in each body paragraph?

□ Have I proofread my writing? Have I used capitals, commas, and transitions effectively?

□ Have I used all the <u>lines</u> provided?