



TIPS

The Opinion Essay

THINK

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

Most opinion questions have at least two possible answers – Yes or No. 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 brainstorm when you don't have a focus. S.H.E.M.P. gives you a focus. It stands for:

S.

School



H.

Health



E.

Emotion



M.

Money



P.

People



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

Generate examples for each category. 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? Choose a side based on your strongest reasons. Write down your thesis statement 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 five paragraphs in total?
- Do I focus on only one category in each paragraph (e.g., School, Health, Money)? It will be the paragraph's main idea.
- Do I have three examples in each body paragraph?
- Have I proofread my writing? Have I used capitals, commas, and transitions effectively?
- Have I used all the lines provided?