

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write an Opinion Essay

Directions: Read the article "Extreme Sports: Too Dangerous for Kids?" in the November/December 2014 issue of *Storyworks*. Fill in the chart on page 29. Then follow the steps below to write an opinion essay.

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR SIDE

An opinion essay is all about expressing a view and using evidence to try to convince your readers to agree with you. First step? Decide where you stand. Should kids participate in extreme sports? **Check the box next to the point of view you will support in your essay.**

☐ Yes! They're great activities!

☐ No! They're too dangerous!

STEP 2: WRITE A TOPIC SENTENCE

The topic sentence is where you tell your readers what the essay is going to be about. In an opinion essay, it's where you state your opinion—strongly! **Write your topic sentence on the lines below, stating whether you think extreme sports are too dangerous for young people.**

Your topic sentence: _____

STEP 3: SUMMARIZE THE ISSUE

Let the readers know a little about the topic you will be writing about. This is not your opinion; it's just a brief summary explaining that there are two sides to the issue.

Your summary of the issue: _____

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STEP 4: FIND YOUR SUPPORT

Guess what? You've already done most of this part! Your three supporting points are listed in either the "Yes" or the "No" column on page 29. Copy your three points on the numbered lines below. In the next paragraph of your essay, you will state your three supporting points. After each one, you should add details that back up that point. Write down one detail related to each point on the "Detail" lines below.

1. _____

Detail: _____

2. _____

Detail: _____

3. _____

Detail: _____

STEP 5: MENTION THE OTHER SIDE

Pick one of the strongest points from the other side of the argument. Then think about why you believe that idea is wrong or flawed. Write two to three sentences explaining the point and why you believe it is wrong.

Argument against the other side: _____

STEP 6: WRITE A CONCLUSION

The last paragraph of your essay is the conclusion. You should write two to three sentences restating your main points—but don't add any new ideas. Remember, this is the last thing your readers will see, so make sure to remind them why you believe your argument is correct.

STEP 7: START WRITING

Now that you have the key ingredients for your essay, you are ready to start writing. Ask your teacher for the Storyworks "Opinion Essay Checklist" on our website to guide your writing and help you edit your work.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Opinion Essay Checklist

Directions: Use this guide to write and check your own opinion essay. Or exchange papers with a classmate and use the list to check each other's essays. Circle any sentence in which you find a mistake or the ideas are unclear.

Introduction

- ✓ Does the first paragraph provide a good idea of what the essay is about?
- ✓ Does the first paragraph include a topic sentence that strongly and clearly states the writer's opinion? Does the topic sentence tell the reader which side the essay will support?

Supporting Details

- ✓ Are there three points that support the topic sentence?
- ✓ Are there details to further explain the three supporting points?

The Other Side

- ✓ Does the writer give an argument for the other side—a point that argues against the topic sentence—and explain why that opinion is weak or flawed?

Conclusion

- ✓ Does the last paragraph remind the reader of the main points of the essay?
- ✓ Is the conclusion free of any new information (like another supporting point)?

General

- ✓ Does the whole essay read smoothly?
- ✓ Do the details relate to the topic sentence?
- ✓ Does everything make sense?
- ✓ Are the grammar, punctuation, and spelling correct?
- ✓ Is the essay convincing?
- ✓ Does the essay keep the reader interested?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Teacher e-mail (optional): _____

“Extreme Sports: Too Dangerous for Kids?” Quiz

Directions: Read the debate “Extreme Sports: Too Dangerous for Kids?” in the November/December 2014 issue of *Storyworks*. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Why does the author begin the article with exciting descriptions of athletes doing extreme sports?

- (A) to grab the reader’s attention
- (B) to provide examples of extreme sports
- (C) to emphasize how thrilling extreme sports are
- (D) all of the above

2. One third of all skateboarding injuries occur during the first few weeks of skating because new skaters frequently ____.

- (A) attempt stunts too advanced for their skill level
- (B) purchase the wrong type of equipment
- (C) refuse to work with a coach
- (D) break the laws about wearing helmets

3. During the past 14 years, how many injuries resulted from extreme sports?

- (A) 4
- (B) 200
- (C) 2,000
- (D) more than 4 million

4. The term *high-intensity* in the phrase “extreme sports are high-intensity activities” means that the activities require ____.

- (A) reckless courage
- (B) terrible fear
- (C) tremendous energy
- (D) a good attitude

5. Being free to experiment and invent stunts is an example of how extreme sports can encourage ____.

- (A) boredom
- (B) obedience
- (C) disappointment
- (D) creativity

6. According to the article, how do kids and adults differ in their attitudes about taking risks?

- (A) Adults usually take more risks than kids.
- (B) Kids tend to take more risks because they focus on the present, not the future.
- (C) Kids are more fearful of risk-taking than adults are.
- (D) Most adults think kids should take more risks.

Constructed Response

Directions: On a separate piece of paper, write your answer to each question in a well-organized paragraph. Make sure you support your answers with information and details from the debate.

7. In what ways are extreme sports similar to team sports? How are they different?

8. Even though extreme sports can be very dangerous, they still appeal to kids. Why? Be sure to use details from the article in your answer.