

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Opinion Essay: Mixed Up Essay

The ideas in opinion essays follow a pattern, or structure, to make it easier for the reader to follow along. All essays start with a **big idea**, or **thesis**.

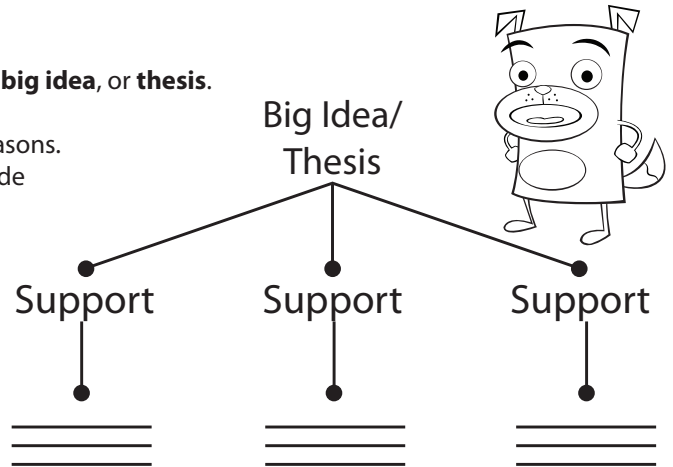
The supports persuade the reader to agree with you by offering reasons. There are usually three **supports** and each of those supports provide **details**, or **evidence**.

In the last paragraph of an opinion essay the writer mentions any **counterpoints** that someone might use to disagree with the big idea and tells why they aren't true, valid, or important.

Last is the **so what**. This is the statement that tells what the reader thinks should happen with this issue.

The strips below are mixed up ideas that are the skeleton of an opinion/persuasive essay. Cut them out and arrange them into **big idea**, **supports**, and **details**. Then put the **counterpoint** and **so what** at the bottom. Glue them on a piece of construction paper in a way that shows the structure of the ideas.

✂ Your arrangement might look something like the diagram above.



Counterpoints: \_\_\_\_\_

So What: \_\_\_\_\_

Big Idea: Reading is good for you.

Support: Reading exercises your imagination.

Detail: You have to imagine different places, sometimes ones that aren't even real.

Detail: You have to imagine scenarios that you have never thought of before.

Detail: You have to visualize what's happening in the story and imagine what the characters look like.

Support: You learn things through reading.

Detail: You learn new words.

Detail: You learn about lives of places and people who are different from you.

Detail: You can learn about what's happening in the world.

Support: Reading is good for your spirit.

Detail: When your life is stressful it can take you away to another world.

Reading stories about other people's struggles is inspiring.

Reading makes you feel connected to the human experience.

Counterpoint: Reading too much makes you sedentary.

Counterpoint: Reading takes too much time away from other things.

So What: People should read regularly in order to have a healthy and active mind.