

# 1. Providing Evidence

This three-part exercise will help you develop the thinking skills required to move from an opinion statement to a support statement.

Read each statement *in italics* below. Then consider the question **Why is this true?** This is the first step to start formulating better arguments. Each statement is an assumption, and needs some solid supporting evidence to back it up. Don't limit your supporting evidence to just your own ideas. Think about what other people might say to also support each of these statements of assumption.

## Sample Opinion Statements

1. *Watching a movie in a theater is better than watching a movie at home on TV.*

Why is this true? The screen and sound system are bigger, making for a more immersive experience.  
 possible answer

2. *People need to exercise more.*

Why is this true? Exercising keeps your body healthy.  
 possible answer

## Now You Try!

1. *Eating healthy is good for you.*

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

2. *Music puts me in a good mood.*

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

3. *Wearing sunblock prevents sunburns.*

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

4. *A dog is a much better pet than a fish.*

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

5. *I like to carry an umbrella when it rains.*

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Finding Reasons

The word “support” in opinion writing doesn’t only have to include your point of view. Consider what other people might think. Practice developing a strong list of reasons to support the statement, keeping your audience in mind. What might others say about the statement?

**Step 1:** Writers think of their own reasons to support the statement.

**Step 2:** Writers find more reasons and support by thinking of reasons other people might have.

### Brainstorm

Use the steps above to give reasons to support these opinions:

**1. *Watching a movie in a theater is better than watching a movie at home on TV.***

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**2. *Exercise is one of the most important ways you can take care of yourself.***

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**3. *Being early is better than being late.***

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Developing Support Statements

# 3. Choosing a Topic

Now it's time to combine what we've learned in pages 1 and 2. Instead of supplying the topic statement that expresses the opinion, this worksheet asks you to choose the opinion sentence and provide two different support statements.

1. Choose a topic. Then, write an opinion sentence about your topic.
2. Write one reason why your opinion sentence is true.
3. Write a reason why someone else might think your opinion sentence is true.

Now you have a complete, three-part opinion sequence!



**a.**

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would someone else say this was true? \_\_\_\_\_

**b.**

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would someone else say this was true? \_\_\_\_\_

**c.**

Topic sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this true? \_\_\_\_\_

Why would someone else say this was true? \_\_\_\_\_