

UNIT 6

EXPRESSING YOUR OPINION



OBJECTIVES

- Distinguish between facts and opinions
- Introduce reasons and examples with transitional signals
- Use outlining to organize reasons and details

OBJECTIVES

- Write adjective clauses with who, which, and that
- Identify and fix fragments
- Use quotation mark correctly
- Write, revise, and edit an opinion paragraph

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, you will learn how to organize a paragraph in which you express an **opinion** supported by details and facts.

PREWRITING

Getting Ideas From Reading

When you express your opinion in writing,...

- You may support your reasons with examples and details from personal knowledge & experience.

Getting Ideas From Reading

- You can include facts, ideas, and quotes from one or more other sources. (newspaper/ magazine articles, websites & referent books)

Opinion Paragraphs

An **opinion** is a statement of someone's belief. (Letters to the Editor)

I believe.../ I think that...

Opinion Paragraphs

There are four keys to writing a successful opinion paragraph:

- State your opinion clearly in the topic sentence.
- Present the reasons for your opinion in logical order.
- Use facts to support each reason.
- End with a powerful concluding sentence that your reader will remember.

ORGANIZATION

Facts And Opinions

- An **opinion** is what someone believes. People can disagree with opinions.
- A **fact** is a true statement that no one can disagree with.

Facts And Opinions

Fact	Opinion
The sun rises in the east.	The sunrise was beautiful this morning.
According to highway accident reports, using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.	Using a cell phone while driving is dangerous.
Mrs. King said, "I'm a good mother. "	Mrs. King is a good mother.

Transitional Signals In Opinion Paragraphs

Here are some things to keep in mind about transition signals in opinion paragraphs:

- When you state an opinion, you should indicate that it is an opinion by using an opinion signal:

Transitional Signals In Opinion Paragraphs

Opinion Signals

In my opinion,...
(with a comma)

In my view,...
(with a comma)

I believe (that)...
(without a comma)

I think (that)...
(without a comma)

Transitional Signals In Opinion Paragraphs

- To give information from an outside source (a book, a newspaper, another person), use *according to* with a comma.

Source Signal

According to X,...
(with a comma)

Transitional Signals In Opinion Paragraphs

- In your concluding sentence, you can remind your reader of the number of reasons.

Conclusion Signal

For these (two, three, four, and so on)
reasons, ...
(with a comma)

SENTENCE STRUCTURE

Adjective Clauses With Who, Which & That

Adjective clauses (relative clauses) begin with words such as *who*, *which*, and *that*. These dependent clauses act like adjectives because they give more information about a noun.

Adjective Clauses With Who, Which & That

Here are some things to know about adjective clauses:

- Adjective clauses begin with the words *who*, *which*, and *that*.

who is used for people

which is used for things

that is used for things (and for people in informal English)

Adjective Clauses With Who, Which & That

- An adjective clause follows the noun it gives more information about.
- Commas are sometimes used with adjective clauses, and sometimes not.

Adjective Clauses With Who, Which & That

Examples:

- (1) If we do not punish cheating, then we reward students **who cheat**.
- (2) The principal usually puts a note about cheating in the student's academic record, **which may be part of a student's college application file someday**.
- (3) Sixty-two percent turned in homework **that was done by someone else**.

Punctuating Adjective Clauses

Using commas around an adjective clause depends on whether the clause provides extra information about the noun or whether it provides information that is necessary to identify the noun.

Punctuating Adjective Clauses

EXTRA INFORMATION (USE COMMAS):

Rachel Moore, **who never votes in elections**, is not a good citizen.

NECESSARY INFORMATION (DO NOT USE COMMAS):

A person **who never votes in elections** is not a good citizen.

More About Fragments

Sometimes this errors happens when you write a dependent clause and forgot to add an independent clause:

Incorrect: If you wan to transfer to a four-year college.

Incorrect: Because it was raining when we left.

More About Fragments

Here is another kind of sentence fragment:

Incorrect: Ron, who also takes night classes.
Incorrect: The book that was on the table.

More About Fragments

This kind of fragment has no independent clause. It consists of a noun and an adjective clause.

There are two ways to correct this error:

- Finish the independent clause.

Corrected: Ron, who also takes night classes, **is very busy.**

Corrected: The book that was on the table **belongs to the teacher.**

More About Fragments

- Delete *who*, *which*, and *that* to make a simple sentence.

Corrected: Ron takes night classes.

Corrected: The book that was on the table.

MECHANICS

Quotation Marks

This section covers the rules for punctuating quotations correctly.

Rules:

(1) Put quotations marks before and after another person's exact words.

Quotation Marks

Rules:

(2) Use a reporting phrase, such as *he says* or *she stated*. The reporting phrase can come before, after, or in the middle of the quotations. Separate it with a comma (or two commas).

Another useful reporting phrase is *according to* (+ name or noun).

If you use someone's exact words with *according to*, use quotation marks.

Quotation Marks

Rules:

(3) Begin each quotation with a capital letter. When a quoted sentence is separated into two parts by a reporting phrase, begin the second part with a small letter.

Quotation Marks

Rules:

(4) Periods, commas, question marks, and exclamation points go inside the end quotation mark.

REFERENCE

Hogue, A. (2017). *Longman Academic Writing Series 2*. USA: Pearson Education, Inc.

IMAGE SOURCE

- <https://www.behance.net/gallery/63207877/I-like-strawberries>