

Essential Skill: Intro to Opinion Writing

This or That?

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi writers, it's Margaret. I loved taking art classes in school. I remember doing projects like water painting, and Chinese brush painting. We even got to make neon colored slime.

Last week, my friend Ari called me with some exciting news—she gets to go to art camp! She started telling me about some of the fun projects she might get to do. But before Ari leaves for art camp, she needs to pick which projects she wants to work on while she's there.

There are lots of classes happening at art camp this year. But a few of them are scheduled for the same time. So, Ari needs to choose. After she thinks about which project she wants to do, she can circle it on her Art Camp Form and write a few reasons why she chose that one. That way her camp counselors can see what projects she is interested in and why. Here are two of the projects she has to decide between:

- Mural painting, where she'll get to paint an entire scene on the side of a building.
- Or chalk art, where she'll get to create fun experiences on the sidewalk, like what this artist is doing.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: Which project would you pick and why?

HOOK 2

If I could pick one of these projects, I would pick mural painting because I've always wanted to paint on a large canvas. I would love to paint on the side of a building and see my artwork every time I walk by on the street.

You probably picked a project because it's something that you like and something that you are interested in. You might like something because it sounds fun and exciting. Or you might *not* like something because it seems boring. How you feel about something, whether it's mural painting, or chalk art, or pizza, or broccoli, is called an *opinion*.

My friend Ari needs to look at the list of projects at art camp and share her opinion about each one. Here's what Ari has written so far: I am interested in working on the chalk art project.

This sentence tells us that she's interested in chalk art, but it's missing something. Her camp counselors need to know why she's interested in working on this project.

DISCUSSION 2

Discuss: How would you add to this sentence? I am interested in working on the chalk art project because...

HOOK 3

Maybe you said, "I am interested in working on the chalk art project because I really like blending colors together with my hands." Or maybe you said, "I am interested in working

on the chalk art project because I want to turn the walk into a magical place." You may have thought of something else, too.

This part of the sentence is the opinion. And this part is the reason. Opinions need reasons to help your reader understand why you feel that way.

Opinion writing can be used in lots of ways. Like writing a letter to your principal about how much you love recess and how extra recess is good for everyone. That might make your principal think about giving everyone extra recess. Or writing a review about a new ice cream shop telling other people that it's delicious, and they should try it too.

Adding reasons to an opinion lets your reader know why you feel the way you do. When your reasons are clear, it might help change your readers mind and convince them to feel the same way.

Ari needs your help. She isn't sure which project to choose, so she needs ideas on what to write. You'll help her decide by choosing which art project you would like to do and your reasons why.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get your supplies. Each student needs a This or That? worksheet and an Art Camp Word Bank.

STEP 2

In today's lesson, you'll need someone to share ideas with. This could be a partner or someone you sit near. When everyone knows who they're partner is, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Find number 1.

You'll be choosing between pottery and glassblowing.

First, let's learn a little about pottery. When you make pottery, you use a big piece of clay and put it on a pottery wheel, like this. Then, you can mold it into lots of different shapes. Like a bowl, for your cereal or a vase for flowers. Check out this tiny vase that this person is making—maybe it's for a tea party for a mouse. Or this giant pot that takes three people to make. Wow!

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on pottery? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you have both had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 4

Now, let's learn about glassblowing. Artists can form glass into different shapes by blowing air into the glass when it's really hot. Check out this design. The hot glass can also be stretched into many patterns and shapes. Look at the animal this artist is making.

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on glassblowing? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you have both had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 5

Design which of these two projects you would like to sign up for. When you decide, you can circle "Pottery" or "Glassblowing" here.

STEP 6

Find "Reason 1" under number "1." This is where your reason for your opinion goes.

You can write a reason for why you chose pottery or glassblowing. Make sure to write something that lets your reader know why you feel that way. Remember, the more the better. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 7

Here's my opinion: I would choose glassblowing.

Here's why: I am interested in this project because I want to learn how to use the special tools when designing the glass.

Find number 2.

You'll be choosing between metal welding and wood carving.

First, let's learn about metal welding. Artists use all different kinds of scrap metal to make imaginative sculptures like this elephant that kids are playing under. You can see it's made from the metal from lots of car wheels. Or this one—I noticed this was made with a bike chain. Artists do this by using a special tool to heat up pieces of metal and then stick them together. People have come up with lots of exciting ways to attach metal together. Like this Panther, or, like this horse.

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on metal welding? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you both have had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 8

Now let's learn a little about wood carving. Artists start with a block of wood, and then carefully carve away bits and pieces to reveal something new. Some projects have a lot of different pieces. Look at what this artist is creating.

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on wood carving? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you both have had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 9

Decide which of these two projects you would like to sign up for. When you decide, circle either "Metal Welding" or "Wood Carving" here.

Then you will write two reasons for why you chose that art project here. Remember, the more descriptive, the better. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

STEP 10

Now, find number 3.

You'll choose between light painting or fluid painting.

First, let's learn about light painting. Light painting is a type of photography that is done in the dark. You can make really awesome photos, like this. Artists make these designs by moving different colored lights around in the air. This artist is making a picture of a flower. See how they form each part with a different type of light? Wow! Some artists even use sparklers as a light source to spell different words in the air.

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on light painting? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you both have had a chance to share, give a silent thumbs up.

STEP 11

Now, let's learn a little about fluid painting. This style of painting lets you pour different colors of paint onto a canvas, to make a cool design. You can even make the paint fall into a pattern, using an object to pour over, like this plastic cup.

Discuss with your partner: What's your opinion on fluid painting? Do you like it, or not like it, and why?

Take turns sharing with your partner. When you both have had a chance to share, give a silent thumb up.

STEP 12

Decide which of these two projects you would like to sign up for. When you decide, you can circle "Light Painting" or "Fluid Painting" here.

Then you will write two reasons for why you chose that art project here. Remember, the more descriptive the better. If you need help, you can use your Word Bank.

WRAP UP

Way to go! You helped Ari come up with lots of reasons to like these art projects. Now, she'll be able to think more about why she is interested in these projects and form her own opinion on them. She's so excited to try out these projects and can't wait to tell the counselors why.

When you're writing to tell an opinion, it's important to let your reader know how you're feeling and also give them descriptive reasons for why you feel this way.

As a writer, you will get to write in lots of different styles or genres. The opinion genre is only one style of writing.

Some other genres might look like an exciting story you make

up or instructions you write for a new experiment, or a letter convincing your principal to give you more recess. As a writer, you'll get to write in all of these genres.

Before you go, try to find other pieces of opinion writing you see around you. See you next time writers!