Steps to writing an opinion essay: **Prewrite**

Read writing prompt. What is it asking you to do? If it is opinion writing, you might see key words such as: or, convince, choose, opinion.

If it is asking you to choose one topic over the other, choose the one you want to agree with first. Underline all the details that are **positive**. Once you have underlined all of the positive details, choose 3 and place in the upper right corner of the 4 square. Leave room to elaborate.

When choosing positive details, ask yourself, “When I elaborate, what can I say to convince the reader to agree with me?”

Once you have written your reasons in your four square, rank them in order of most important to least important. 1 is the least important and 3 is the most important.

Next, refer to the topic you did not choose. Underline all the details that are **negative**. Once you have underlined all of the negative details, choose 3 and place in the bottom left corner of the four square. Leave room to elaborate.

Once you have written your reasons in your four square, rank them in order of most important to least important. 1 is the most important and 3 is the least important.

Now that you have all of your details, it is time to elaborate. Each reason from the text needs an elaboration. When you are done, you should have at least 6 elaborations in all. **It is ok to have more than one sentence when you elaborate to get your point across.** When you elaborate, make sure your sentences are meaningful and include some type of figurative language. **You can use similes, metaphors, personification, idioms, exaggeration, onomatopoeia, etc.**

The next step will be to write your beginning and ending paragraphs. For the beginning, you will need to include your attention grabber, explanation of attention grabber, and topic sentence. Place these details in the upper left corner of your four square.

Attention grabber: You want to grab the reader’s attention without giving your topic away.

Explanation of attention grabber: You will explain your attention grabber without giving your topic away.

Topic sentence: You will refer to the writing prompt and tell what your essay will be about in an interesting way.

Finally, you will write your conclusion. You will restate your topic sentence and tell the best thing, feeling, or idea.

This will complete your four square. The ideas from here will guide your rough draft. When writing your rough draft, you will include the paragraphs in the following order:

Paragraph 1: Beginning (introduction)

Paragraph 2: What you chose to agree with

Paragraph 3: What you **did not** choose to agree with

Paragraph 4: Ending (conclusion)

Next step is writing your **rough draft**. You will have a total of 4 paragraphs. **Remember, you must INDENT for each paragraph!!!!**

**Make sure you include transition words in the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th paragraph.** You can also include transition words within the paragraph.

~ Once your rough draft is complete, it is time to **revise**. Check for your 6 traits of writing.

SIX TRAITS: Use your 6 traits to revise.

IDEAS: What main ideas should I write about?

Make sure you stick to the writing prompt and include details from the passage. You will also need to elaborate with your own ideas. Include figurative language.

ORGANIZATION: How should I organize my details?

 Make sure your essay is easy to follow from beginning to ending.

 Rank your ideas from least important to most important

 Include transition words.

VOICE: How can I make my voice sound stronger?

Let your reader know you are interested in the topic. Include figurative language. For example, metaphor, simile, onomatopoeia, personification, idiom, etc.

WORD CHOICE: What are the best words to use?

Use specific nouns and verbs. Use robust words. Circle weak **verbs** and **adjectives** and use a thesaurus to replace the words.

SENTENCE FLUENCY: Are my sentences easy to read?

 Write sentences that flow smoothly and clearly.

 Make sure you sentences start differently. Don’t just use “the”

or “I”. Use words such as: after, although, as, when, while, until, because, before, if, since

 \*When you use these words, make sure to include a comma after the phrase. For example:

**After** what seemed like forever, the bell rang for us to go home.

**Although** it is raining outside, there are plenty of things to do inside.

**Before** class starts, make sure you have your materials.

**Since** you love sports, I will take you to a Saints game in New Orleans.

Use various punctuations and include dialogue if necessary.

CONVENTIONS: Have I checked for errors?

Follow the rules for punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and grammar.

Do you have a question mark after a question? Include various punctuations throughout your writing.

After you revise, it is time for you to **publish** your writing with your final copy.

Remember to check your rubric. Follow these steps and you will be successful!!!

**Here is an example of an opinion writing about which is more useful: a flying car or a helper robot. Students can use this essay and put it in a four square for practice.**

 Wow, who would have thought technology could be so amazing? As the years go by, something new and exciting comes along each year. Two inventions, the flying car and the helper robot, are the newest inventions, but the flying car is more useful.

 First of all, traffic jams will no longer be a problem. Instead of being stuck on the road for 24 hours, you can simply be like an eagle and soar in the air. You will not have to spend hours riding in a car. In a flying car, stop signs and red lights are ghosts. They don’t exist! Military personnel can use it to rescue injured soldiers on the battlefield. The flying car can pop up like a genie, and the soldiers will have a better chance of surviving.

 Next, the helper robots are not as useful. With the robot, children may never need to clean their rooms or make their own snack again. They would become very lazy! Their friends would snicker at them because they wouldn’t know how to fix cereal or make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Secondly, the helper robot can make food and bring it to a human. Sniff, sniff… I think something is burning. It is possible that the robot left the oven on, and the house has a chance of catching on fire. Do you want this to be you? Finally, it’s operated by a remote control. What if the remote is lost, stepped on (CRUNCH!), or has a malfunction? This would definitely be a tragedy!

 In conclusion, the flying car is definitely more useful than the helper robot. I have a feeling that the flying car will be around for a long time. Who wouldn’t want the luxury of getting to their destination in a flash?