

A person is sitting at a desk, writing in a notebook. The person's hands are visible, holding a pen and writing on the page. The desk is light-colored, and the background is a solid purple color. The text "Lesson 9" is written in a large, white, serif font, underlined, and "Opinion Paragraphs" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it.

# Lesson 9

## Opinion Paragraphs

Source: Great Paragraphs 2

# What is an Opinion paragraph?

**An opinion paragraph expresses the writer’s opinion. A good writer will include not only opinions but also facts to support his or her opinions. For example, if a writer says, “Smoking should not be allowed anywhere,” the writer must give reasons for this opinion. One reason could be a fact, such as, “Thirty thousand people died in the United States and Canada last year because of lung cancer—a known result of smoking.” This fact supports the writer’s opinion.**

## A good opinion paragraph

- Gives the writer's opinion or opinions about a topic.
- Interprets or explains facts.
- Is often about a controversial issue.
- Causes the reader to think about an issue seriously, perhaps even causing the reader to reconsider his or her own opinion about the issue.
- Considers both sides of an argument (although it gives more attention to the writer's side of the issue.)

Let work through some samples.

## Sample 1:

# Driving and Cell Phones

Because cell phones and driving are a deadly mix, I am in favor of a ban on cell phone use by drivers. The most obvious reason for this ban is to save lives. Each year, thousands of drivers are killed because they are talking on cell phones instead of watching the road while they are driving. This first reason should be enough to support a ban on cell phones when driving, but I have two other reasons. My second reason is that these drivers cause accidents that kill other people. Sometimes these drivers kill other drivers; sometimes they kill passengers or even pedestrians. These drivers certainly do not have the right to endanger others' lives! Finally, even in cases where there are no injuries or deaths, damage to cars from these accidents costs us millions of dollars as well as countless hours of lost work. To me, banning cell phones while driving is common sense. In fact, a wider range of countries has already put this ban into effect, including Australia, Brazil, Japan, Russia, and Turkey. Driving a car is a privilege, not a right. We must all be careful drivers, and talking on a cell phone when driving is not safe.



## Sample 2: **The Best Way to Communicate**

No matter how much my friends try to convince me that I should text them more often, I prefer calling to texting. Yes, some people might say that using a telephone to make a call is ole-fashioned, but I don not care. Texting is certainly very common now because it is very convenient and fast. However, I really like to call my friends voices' and interact with them. Without a doubt, calling is my prefer mode of instruction.

## Sample 3: **An A+ for School Uniforms**

School uniforms should be mandatory for all students for a number of reasons. First of all, uniforms make everyone equal. In this way, the “rich” kids are on the same level as the poor ones. In addition, getting ready for school can be much faster and easier. Many kids waste time choosing what to wear to school, and they and their parents are often unhappy with their final choices. Most important, some studies show that school uniforms make students perform better in school. Many people might say that uniforms take away from personal freedom, but I believe the benefits are stronger than the drawbacks.





## Faulty Parallelism

Words in a pair or series should have parallel structure. By balancing the items in a pair or series so that they have the same kind of structure, you will make the sentence clearer and easier to read. Notice how the parallel sentences that follow read more smoothly than the nonparallel ones.

### **Nonparallel (Not Balanced)**

Brit spends her free time reading, listening to music, and she works in the garden.

After the camping trip I was exhausted, irritable, and wanted to eat.

### **Parallel (Balanced)**

Brit spends her free time reading, listening to music, and working in the garden.

(A balanced series of *-ing* words: *reading, listening, working.*)

After the camping trip I was exhausted, irritable, and hungry.

(A balanced series of descriptive words: *exhausted, irritable, hungry.*)

Balanced sentences are not a skill you need to worry about when you are writing first drafts. But when you rewrite, you should try to put matching words and ideas into matching structures. Such parallelism will improve your writing style.



# Your Mission for the Next Session

1 Review the Lesson

2 Complete the Activities

3 Visit your peers web pages

4 Write your essays in groups