

## Checklist for Writing a Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

- Have I written at least three paragraphs, including an introduction, body and conclusion?
- Is my opinion stated clearly in the opening paragraph?
- Have I included at least one point that supports my position?
- Are my points developed with explanations and examples?
- If I have more than one point, is each point given a separate paragraph?
- Does the concluding paragraph summarize my position and points?
- Have I used complete sentences?
- Have I used transitional words and phrases to link my ideas?
- Have I clearly marked new paragraphs by indenting them or leaving a blank line between them?
- Have I used correct grammar, spelling and punctuation?
- Is the tone appropriate for an adult reader?

## RUBRIC

### Your writing...

doesn't express an opinion.	expresses an opinion in parts.	expresses a clear opinion.
does not relate to the question.	partly relates to the question.	relates clearly to the question.
provides few (related) supporting details.	provides insufficient supporting details.	provides sufficient supporting details.
has supporting details that are not related to your opinion.	has supporting details that are not always clearly connected to your opinion.	has supporting details that are specifically and thoughtfully connected to your opinion.
has no or limited evidence of organization.	is organized in a mechanical way.	is organized in a way that demonstrates a thoughtful progression of ideas.

### Errors in spelling, grammar and punctuation...

interfere with communication.	distract from communication.	do not distract from communication.
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Adapted from 2007 standards at <http://www.eqao.com>. Retrieved June 26, 2007.

# Answers to Writing Tasks

## WRITING A SERIES OF PARAGRAPHS EXPRESSING AN OPINION

### Sample Answer



#### Explanation

The rubric found in the writing practice section of this book and the sample answer below show you an example of a good answer and why it is a good answer.

**\*Please note that the words in parentheses ( ) indicate the required element used—not student writing.**

#### QUESTION

*Is it fair for schools to restrict the kinds of foods children may bring in their snacks and lunches?*

#### A good answer might look something like this:

For a couple of reasons, I think it is fair for schools to restrict the kinds of foods children bring to eat at school. **(main idea / opinion)** First, **(transitional word to join ideas)** childhood obesity and poor physical fitness are increasing. **(reason for opinion)** This is at least partly because children eat too much junk food. Second, **(transitional word to join ideas)** many children today have deadly allergies to some foods. **(reason for opinion)** By restricting the kinds of food eaten at school, schools can promote good health and good eating habits for everyone.

By now everyone knows that eating too much junk food and not enough fruits and vegetables is causing children to become overweight. **(reason for opinion)** Treats are a big part of lunch for a lot of children. **(supporting detail to back up reason)** They bring cookies, donuts, chips and candies in their lunch—and they eat these instead of their lunch. Parents complain that the sandwich and apple come home uneaten. But **(transitional word to join ideas)** if junk food isn't packed in the first place, kids will eat what's available if they're hungry. After a while, children will get used to having an apple or banana for a snack. **(supporting detail to back up reason)** In this way, school rules about snacks and lunches can help improve children's eating habits.

More importantly, **(transitional phrase to join ideas)** rules about allergy foods can help to save lives. **(reason for opinion)** For example, **(transitional phrase to join ideas)** some children will become seriously ill or may even die if they're exposed to peanuts. **(supporting detail to back up reason)** Therefore, schools have to ban peanuts and other nuts in order to protect their students. As well, **(transitional phrase to join ideas)** foods like eggs and even fish are dangerous for some people **(supporting detail to back up reason)** and they have to be restricted. I think most people would agree that this is fair.

In conclusion, **(transitional phrase to join ideas)** having restrictions on what children can eat at school is a good idea. **(concluding sentence)** Obviously, if someone in the school is allergic to certain foods, then

having restrictions shouldn't be optional. It is not worth risking someone's life. But even for non-allergic foods that are full of sugar and fat, restricting them is a step in the right direction. It will lead to better health and fitness and possibly better dental check-ups as well.

## Checklist of Required Elements for Series of Paragraphs Expressing an Opinion

- is at least three paragraphs
- has an organized paragraph structure
  - introduction
  - body
  - conclusion
- has a main idea expressing a clear position or opinion
- gives at least one reason for the opinion
- gives at least two supporting details to back up each reason
- uses transitional words and phrases to join ideas
- has a concluding sentence