Opinion Writing
Climb or Not?

Objectives & Common Core Connections

✱ Introduce the topic.
✱ Focus on the purpose of opinion writing.
✱ State an opinion about the topic.
✱ Develop a list of reasons to support the opinion.
✱ Write sentences that include reasons for the opinion.

Introduction Provide each student with a copy of the writing frame (page 12). Read the title and first lines. Also draw attention to the tree in the picture and the captions. Encourage students to think about other things they might say about the tree. Tell them that they will be writing to persuade other people to share their opinion about climbing the tree. Remind students that an opinion is a point of view or someone’s idea about something.

Model Tell students that in an opinion piece writers should introduce the topic. Write a topic in sentence form on the board. For example:

- Some people like to climb trees.

Invite a volunteer to tell you what his or her opinion is. For example:

- I think it would be a lot of fun to climb this tree.

Remind students that they are writing to persuade their readers to agree with them about climbing the tree. Ask: How do you persuade someone to agree with you? Help students understand that a writer might give reasons to support an opinion. For example:

- would be a challenge
- could pick an apple
- view would be great
- could be a secret hiding place

Ask students to come up with other reasons for climbing the tree, then talk about these reasons and how they might be useful in persuading someone to climb the tree. Work with students to determine which reasons best support the opinion. For example, students might eliminate the second reason because not all trees have apples. Coach students in developing practice sentences based on the reasons. For example:

- Climbing the tree would be a good challenge.

Guided Practice Have students complete the writing frame. Instruct them to introduce the topic, focus on the purpose of writing, state an opinion, and list reasons to support their opinion. Encourage students to use their own wording and sentence structure. Point out that they can state a different opinion and use different reasons to support it.

Review Invite volunteers to read their finished pages to the class. Have listeners use items 1–5 on the assessment checklist (page 62) to evaluate the effectiveness of other students’ work.

Independent Practice Use the On Your Own activity (page 13) as homework or review. Encourage students to use what they learned in the lesson to complete the page. Explain that they can choose a topic from the Idea Box or use their own idea.
Climb or Not?

Should you and your friends climb this tree? Form an opinion. Then, try to get others to agree with you.

- Introduce the topic.
- Focus on your writing purpose.
- State your opinion.
- List reasons to support your opinion.
- Write some practice sentences.

Topic ____________________________

Writing Purpose __________________

Opinion _________________________

Supporting Reasons __________________

Practice Sentences __________________
Choose a daring activity from the Idea Box or think of one of your own. Form an opinion about the safety of the activity. Complete this page to persuade others to agree with you.

- Jumping From One Huge Boulder to Another
- Swinging on a Vine on a Tree
- Walking on a Log Across a Stream
- My Idea: ____________________________
  ____________________________

Topic ____________________________

Writing Purpose ____________________________

Opinion ____________________________

Supporting Reasons ____________________________

Sentences ____________________________

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Student Assessment Checklist
Opinion Writing

1. Introduced the topic. ............................................................
2. Focused on the writing purpose. ............................................
3. Stated an opinion. .............................................................
4. Developed and presented reasons to support an opinion. .......
5. Wrote sentences that include reasons for the opinion. ...........
6. Connected the reasons and opinion with linking words. .......
7. Provided a concluding sentence. ...........................................
8. Wrote a paragraph that offers an opinion. ..........................

More Things to Check
- Capitalized proper nouns.
- Capitalized the first word of sentences.
- Used correct punctuation.
- Spelled words correctly.
- Followed correct paragraph form.