

# Opinion Writing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Score: \_\_\_\_\_ / 10



## Quick Review

A Grade 4 opinion piece has four jobs: (1) introduce the topic and state a clear opinion, (2) support it with reasons backed by facts and details, (3) link opinion and reasons with words like *for instance*, *in order to*, *in addition*, *specifically*, and (4) wrap up with a strong concluding statement.

## PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

### Student draft — “Why Our School Should Start a Library Club”

Our school should start a library club because it would help readers grow and bring kids together. First, a library club would give us more time with books we love. In addition, members could share recommendations, which is one of the best ways to discover a new favorite series.

Second, a club would help readers who struggle. For instance, older members could read with younger ones once a week. Specifically, a fourth grader could partner with a first grader for ten minutes after lunch. In order to make this work, our librarian would only need a small sign-up sheet.

Finally, a library club would bring kids together around something quiet and kind. In addition to reading, members could plan a yearly book fair to raise money for new titles. For all of these reasons, the principal should start a library club this fall — our school would be a better place for it.

## PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the student draft below to answer the items. Choose the **BEST** option or write a careful response.

- Which sentence from the draft states the writer's MAIN OPINION?
  - A library club would also be a fun way for kids to meet new friends.
  - Our school should start a library club because it would help readers grow and bring kids together.
  - In addition, members could share recommendations, which is one of the best ways to discover a new favorite series.
  - For all of these reasons, the principal should start a library club this fall — our school would be a better place for it.



2. Which linking phrase from the draft introduces a SPECIFIC EXAMPLE (not just an added reason or a purpose)?
- A. In addition,
  - B. Specifically,
  - C. Finally,
  - D. In order to
3. Which sentence would be the BEST additional REASON to add to paragraph 1?
- A. Reading every day at the same time has been shown to build stronger reading habits, and a club would create that routine.
  - B. Our school librarian, Mrs. Chen, has worked at our school for twelve years.
  - C. I sometimes forget to return my library books on time.
  - D. Many fourth graders enjoy science fiction more than mystery.
4. Which sentence would be the WEAKEST support because it states an OPINION rather than a verifiable fact?
- A. Reading clubs at three nearby schools meet weekly and have full sign-up lists.
  - B. Our school library already owns more than 1,800 books.
  - C. Reading is the most important thing a child can do every day.
  - D. Last year's book fair raised \$432 for new titles.
5. Which linking word would BEST fill the blank?  
“A library club would help readers grow \_\_\_\_\_ it would give them more time with books.”
- A. however,
  - B. because
  - C. although
  - D. instead,
6. Which sentence would be the STRONGEST conclusion for an OPINION piece?
- A. For all of these reasons, the principal should start a library club this fall — our school would be a better place for it.
  - B. There are many opinions about library clubs, and people see this issue in different ways.
  - C. A library club is one possible option that the school could maybe consider at some point.
  - D. Library clubs were first started in the United States in the 1880s, and they have changed a lot since then.
7. Which transition would BEST introduce a SECOND reason in paragraph 2?
- A. On the other hand,
  - B. In contrast,
  - C. Even though
  - D. In addition,



8. Which sentence is an OPINION (not a fact)?
- A. The library has 1,840 books on its shelves.
  - B. The library opens at 8:00 a.m. on Mondays.
  - C. The library has a computer station with four laptops.
  - D. The library is the most welcoming room in the whole school.
9. Write a CLEAR OPINION sentence (1 sentence) about an idea you care about at school. Begin with **I believe** or **Our school should**.

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10. Write TWO reasons for your opinion above. Use a DIFFERENT linking word or phrase for each (for instance, in addition, specifically, in order to).

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## Answer Keys

- 1  A  B  C  D
- 2  A  B  C  D
- 3  A  B  C  D
- 4  A  B  C  D
- 5  A  B  C  D

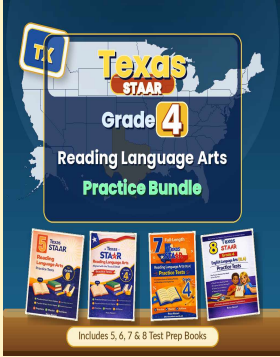
- 6  A  B  C  D
- 7  A  B  C  D
- 8  A  B  C  D
- 9
- 10

### Explanations

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| <b>1. B</b> | B is the THESIS: topic + position + preview of reasons, placed up front. A sounds like an opinion but is not in the draft. C is a supporting reason. D is the concluding restatement, not the main opinion statement.  |
| <b>2. B</b> | <i>Specifically</i> narrows to a concrete instance (a fourth grader and a first grader). <i>In addition</i> stacks another reason, <i>Finally</i> marks the last reason, and <i>In order to</i> signals purpose.   |
| <b>3. A</b> | A introduces a NEW REASON (reading routine) that supports the opinion. B is an on-topic fact but doesn't argue for the club. C is a personal weakness, not a reason. D is on-topic but is a side fact, not a reason to start the club.   |
| <b>4. C</b> | Strong support uses FACTS. C is a sweeping personal opinion with no source. A, B, and D are countable, verifiable facts that strengthen the argument.  |
| <b>5. B</b> | The blank connects a CLAIM to its REASON, so <i>because</i> fits. <i>However</i> and <i>although</i> signal contrast (wrong relationship); <i>instead</i> signals replacement, which doesn't fit either.   |
| <b>6. A</b> | A restates the opinion firmly AND sums up the reasons — the job of an opinion conclusion. B is balanced/neutral (better for an informative piece). C hedges and weakens the stance. D is an off-topic historical fact.   |
| <b>7. D</b> | <i>In addition</i> stacks another reason of the same kind. <i>On the other hand</i> and <i>In contrast</i> signal opposition; <i>Even though</i> introduces a concession, not a new supporting reason.   |
| <b>8. D</b> | Opinions use judgment words like <i>most welcoming</i> and cannot be verified by counting or checking a schedule. A, B, and C are all measurable, verifiable facts.  |
| <b>9.</b>   | <b>Answer:</b> Examples: (1) I believe our school should give students twenty minutes of silent reading every afternoon. (2) Our school should add a vegetable choice at every lunch. (3) I believe fourth graders should have a class job rotation each week.<br>Accept any single sentence that (a) names a topic and (b) states a clear position. NOT acceptable: a question, a fact-only sentence (e.g., "Our school has 400 students"), or a balanced sentence that takes no side.  |
| <b>10.</b>  | <b>Answer:</b> Examples: (1) In addition, silent reading lets every student practice every day, no matter their reading level. Specifically, twenty minutes adds up to almost two extra hours of practice each week. (2) For instance, students who read daily score higher on state reading tests. In order to build that habit at school, we need a protected time block.<br>Accept any two reasons that support the opinion from item 9, each introduced with a DIFFERENT linking phrase from the list. NOT acceptable: two reasons with the same linking word, or one reason restated twice. |



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