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Reasoned Writing

W.6.1, 4–6, 9; WHST.6.1, 4–6, 9

Sometimes, you will be asked for your opinion. You might be asked to write an opinion of a movie, a book, or a game. Other times, you may be asked to convince readers to change the way they think about an issue. First, present your opinion clearly. Then support it with facts, examples, or explanations.

Guided Practice

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Will Recently Opened Harry's Burger House Succeed?

By Jenna Smith, *Townsend Gazette*

Harry's Burger House, located just across from the Townsend post office, offers a wide selection of burgers of every kind imaginable. The restaurant opened only a week ago.

For a set price of \$9.50, patrons can choose from a menu offering 40 different kinds of burgers. They range from old-fashioned beef burgers to turkey burgers, chicken burgers, and pork burgers, plus a variety of vegetarian-style burgers. You also get your choice of sweet potato or regular fries and a large, refillable soft drink. It's a great deal price-wise! Harry's also has an old-fashioned jukebox at every table. For a dollar, patrons can choose four songs to listen to while they eat.

So, what's the downside? If you're looking for a quiet evening meal, you may want to go somewhere a little less popular. Harry's Burger House is small, and with a dining room full of people, it's a pretty noisy place to be. Expect to wait to be seated. Also, expect to wait a good 25 minutes for your meal. If someone in your party is not in the mood for a burger, there really isn't much else to choose from on the menu. This can be disappointing. Finally, the restaurant has only one restroom and no off-street parking.



Imagine you have eaten at Harry's Burger House. Write a restaurant review for your classmates that states your opinion about this restaurant. Support your opinion with at least three good reasons or facts from the article.

Step 1: Prewriting

Here's how one boy, Javier, answered the question. First, he read the question. He made sure he knew his subject, the form of his answer, his audience, and other important details. He underlined important words.

What key words did Javier underline?



**Read
Note
Organize**



Underlining key terms as you read helps you understand the writing purpose. It helps you answer who, what, and why questions. Here is a sample answer:

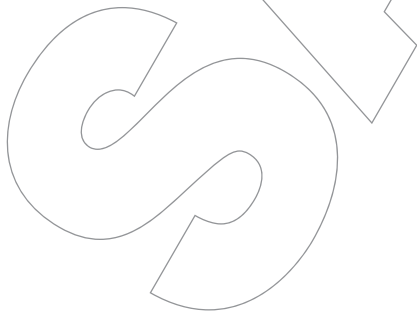
Javier underlined your opinion, three good reasons or facts, and classmates.

Then he took notes to help him plan his writing. Here's what he wrote:

*my subject—Harry's Burger House
what I have to write—a review
what I have to do—state my opinion about
Harry's Burger House and back it up with at
least three good reasons or facts*



**Read
Note
Organize**



Add two more facts to the organizer to support the main opinion.



Think about Javier's opinion. Would he recommend the restaurant? Then think about the atmosphere, food, and prices. Here is a sample answer:

The menu choices are limited. Besides the 40 different burgers, there are no other food options. It's a pretty noisy place. The small dining room is full of people.

Javier is now ready to begin writing his draft.

Step 2: Drafting

Read the draft. Then answer the questions.

Harry's burger House is not a good restaurant. First of all, we had a hard time finding parking near the restaurant because there is no parking along Main street. Then when we found it, we had to walk. It was four blocks back to the restaurant. Once we were there there was a long line and we ended up waiting about 20 minutes to be seated. There was no place for us to wait. My grandfather had to stand the whole time. After we ordered our food it took another 25 minutes to get our burgers! This made me and everyone at the table a bit grumpy. Also, it was very noisy and crowd at Harry's Burger House. The place is pretty small. We had a hard time talking to each other over the noise.

In addition, my sister, Sally, doesn't really like burgers that much.
We thought their would be something else on the menu for her to
choose from, but there wasn't even a salad! Though the burgers at
Harry's Burger House are good I don't think they are worth the
wait or the walk! I did really enjoy my fries.

Tell how this answer is organized by identifying:

Topic Sentence/Opinion: _____

Fact 1: _____

Fact 2: _____

Fact 3: _____

✓ The topic sentence states Javier's opinion. Does he recommend the restaurant? Why or why not? Here is a sample answer:

Topic Sentence/Opinion: Harry's Burger House is not a good restaurant.

Fact 1: First of all, we had a hard time finding parking near the restaurant because there is no parking along the main street.

Fact 2: Once we were there, there was a long line and we ended up waiting for 20 minutes to be seated.

Fact 3: We ordered our food and were disappointed when it took another 25 minutes to get our burgers!

Javier is now ready to revise his writing.

Step 4: Editing

Read the revised draft on page 83 again. Edit Javier's paper for five more errors.



The editing stage is your last chance to fix any mistakes. Look for problems with spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and grammar. Here are the correct answers:

Change *burger* to *Burger* in sentence 1.

Insert period at the end of the first sentence after *restaurant*.

Change *street* to *Street* in sentence 2.

Change *eachother* to *each other* in sentence 10.

Change *their* to *there* in sentence 12.

Now, Javier is ready to publish his writing.

Step 5: Publishing

The last step is to publish your writing. Javier can do this by turning in his paper to his teacher. Since his audience is his classmates, Javier could also read his review aloud to them. He might even publish it in the school newspaper.

Test Yourself

Read the interview. Then answer the questions.

WETR Host: We welcome Sophie LaFleur, founder of Gameschool—specializing in video games for the classroom. Hello, Ms. LaFleur.

LaFleur: Good morning.

WETR Host: Ms. LaFleur, your math and reading video games for the classroom have caused quite a stir in the Winford Public Schools. Are you aware that many parents and teachers are against their use in classrooms?

LaFleur: Well, I am aware of some of them. Perhaps you could explain their concerns to me and then allow me to address them.

WETR Host: Very well. Some parents and teachers fear their children get too much video-style entertainment through the mainstream media. They believe school should be a place that builds up more traditional learning skills. They want students to learn patience, concentration, and basic math and reading skills—without the need for fast-paced video games to hold their attention. They also feel that if children get used to video as a way to learn, they will not be interested in leaving their computers. This will affect their social skills, and they won't interact as much with their classmates. They'll also have less desire to get outside and play and won't get the exercise they need to build healthy, strong bodies.

LaFleur: I understand how these issues could concern parents and teachers. Gameschool video games are not meant to be used as the only learning tool in a classroom. They are designed to be used along with textbooks. They help bring topics to life by involving students in interesting scenarios and games that strengthen their skills in concentration, basic math, and reading. Because children love video games, Gameschool feels they will be drawn to them as learning tools. Many of the games are designed to be played in groups, so that students can still interact with one another.

WETR Host: What about schools that don't have enough computers for all the students?

LaFleur: In those schools, Gameschool products are often used as reinforcement tools—for students having trouble with a particular subject.

WETR Host: What about the high costs of the Gameschool products? For example, a teacher could order six math textbooks for the price of one Gameschool Math package. Is it worth it?

LaFleur: I believe it is worth it if you can capture and hold a child's interest in a subject. These days that's hard to do.

WETR Host: Thank you for the interview, Ms. LaFleur.

- 5 Use your organizer to help you write your draft. Be sure you begin your letter with a topic sentence. Then state and explain each fact or reason. Remember to link your ideas with transitions. These can include words like *and*, *also*, and *in addition*. They should also include words that show the order and importance of your facts and reasons, such as *first*, *second*, *next*, *finally*, *last*, and *most important*.

20 horizontal lines for writing.