Opinion paragraphs

Independently recommend a radio episode

Name _____ Date _____

Quick review State a clear opinion for your audience. Organize reasons, develop them with relevant details and finish with a conclusion. Revise before editing.

Example Our class should keep a reading corner because it offers a calm place to focus. This gives an opinion and a reason to develop.

The fictional youth radio editors need your recommendation for the first episode in a fourth-grade listening-and-discussion session. Independently plan, draft, and revise one 100-140-word opinion paragraph addressed to the editors. Use the episode notes rather than inventing listener reactions. Either episode is a valid choice when supported; the model is only one possibility. The rubric guides human feedback and gives no automatic score.

Two episode choices

[1] The session lasts twenty minutes, including discussion. The Missing Bell is an eight-minute fictional mystery with three characters; the narration names each speaker. Market Sound Walk is twelve minutes long and includes five recordings of everyday sounds at a town market; a narrator identifies each sound.

[2] Both episodes have printed scripts that listeners may read. No group has listened yet, and the editors have no preference survey. You do not need to hear the recordings to use these planning notes.

1. Choose an episode. Plan your opinion and at least two accurate details, explaining why those details matter for the editors' fourth-grade audience or session schedule.

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Draft and revise using the prompt and planning notes from page 1. More than one strong response is possible.

2. Write your 100-140-word recommendation. Include a clear opinion, developed reasons, links, and a conclusion that serves the editors' decision.

3. Show a before-and-after revision of one sentence to make its support or connection clearer. Then name one other rubric check you made in your paragraph.

Opinion paragraphs

Responses and feedback: Independently recommend a radio episode

These are sample responses and reasoning. Accept other answers that fit the task and are supported by the text or language rule.

Planning / revision 1: Recommend Market Sound Walk. Its narrator identifies all five sounds, which could help listeners follow them. Its twelve-minute length leaves eight minutes for discussion within the twenty-minute session. The plan links supplied features to the audience and the schedule.

Planning / revision 3: Before: It lasts twelve minutes. After: Its twelve-minute length leaves eight minutes for discussion in the twenty-minute session. Another check: My conclusion repeats the episode choice without inventing a listener survey.
The sample revision explains why the time fact matters instead of only reporting it.

One possible paragraph

The youth radio editors should open the session with Market Sound Walk. This episode offers five market recordings, and a narrator identifies each sound. For fourth-grade listeners, those explanations could make the unfamiliar recordings easier to follow. The episode lasts twelve minutes, so it would leave eight minutes in the twenty-minute session for discussing what listeners noticed. The Missing Bell is shorter and has three named characters, which could also lead to a useful conversation. However, I prefer a first episode built around noticing everyday sounds rather than following a fictional mystery. Both episodes have printed scripts, so readers can follow either choice. Please begin with Market Sound Walk for its sound-focused topic and narrated clues.

Feedback checklist

Use these criteria to discuss the model. Scan the lesson QR for the full three-level rubric; no automatic score is assigned.

Opinion and Purpose: States a clear opinion and maintains a respectful recommendation suited to the named audience and purpose.

Reasons and Evidence: Develops relevant reasons with accurate supplied details and explains how the details support the opinion without inventing claims.

Organization and Linking: Groups reasons logically, uses clear links between ideas, and ends with a conclusion that follows from the opinion and support.

Clarity and Conventions: Uses precise wording and complete sentences; grammar, capitalization, spelling, and punctuation make the meaning clear.

Revise, then edit

1. Check that the recommendation names an episode and addresses the editors' decision for fourth-grade listeners.
2. Verify episode features and the time calculation against the notes; separate your predicted benefits from known facts.
3. Explain each reason and use linking language to make comparisons clear, without treating a shared feature as unique.
4. Make the conclusion follow from the reasons, then check sentence boundaries and other conventions using the rubric.