Unit 6 — Writing an Opinion — Teacher copy

Track G+M · Klasse 8 · Niveau G/M

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1. Reading

Read the text and use it for the activities below.

Reading — model opinion text

In my view, pupils should help choose at least one of the books we read each year. Firstly, when students are part of the choice, they are more likely to actually read the book. Secondly, the school benefits because more voices are involved. On the other hand, teachers know the curriculum better than students do, and that knowledge matters. In conclusion, a small say — perhaps one book in three — would be a fair compromise.

Structure of the opinion paragraph

1. **Claim** — what you think.
2. **Reason** — why.
3. **Counter** — what someone might say against you.
4. **Conclusion** — your final position, slightly softer or sharper.

Signposts: *In my view / I think / firstly / secondly / on the other hand / however / on the contrary / in contrast / in conclusion / overall.*

2. Practise

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1. Match: claim — c, reason — r, counter — co, conclusion — cn. Label each sentence in the model text.
2. Choose the right signpost: *(disagreement)* → ___ ; *(adding a second reason)* → ___ ; *(closing)* → ___ .

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3. Build a 4-sentence mini-opinion on: *Should we have a longer break?*

3. Your turn

Opinion paragraph, 120 words. Choose: *Should school start later? Should pupils choose one book a year? Should school clubs be free?* Use the four-move structure and three signposts.

Sample

In my view, school clubs should be free for everyone. Firstly, paying makes some clubs feel like extra school, when they should feel like a release valve. Secondly, free clubs reach pupils whose families cannot pay, which is the whole point. On the other hand, equipment costs money, and someone has to pay for it. In conclusion, the school could ask for a small contribution if you can, but never block a pupil from joining because of cost.

4. Further reading / listening

- The Guardian — short opinion pieces by teachers.
- BBC News — *Have your say* columns.

5. Teacher answer key

G. 1. open (most students should help choose = c; *Firstly* / *Secondly* = r; *On the other hand* = co; *In conclusion* = cn).

2. *On the contrary / However / Secondly / Finally / In conclusion.*

M. 3. Open.