

## MASTERING WRITING

### Writing an Opinion Composition

- A 1** City planners in Andrew's town have proposed a solution to the problem of rush-hour traffic. Read Andrew's composition. What is the proposal? What is Andrew's opinion of it?

#### THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

Wouldn't you like to relax at home with a cup of coffee in the morning instead of being stuck in a traffic jam? If the city planners have their way, your wish may soon come true. They have proposed building a new, six-lane highway to take cars around the city rather than through it. Although this would save drivers a lot of time, I believe that the environmental cost is far too high.

For one thing, a new road would ruin the countryside. A large area of what is now beautiful, green, open space would be covered in asphalt. This would destroy not only forests and plants, but the food sources and homes of the area's birds and wild animals, too.

Even worse, the road would encourage people to use their cars more. This would mean burning more fuel, which would increase global warming. In addition, more cars would increase the amount of air pollution and noise in our environment.

In conclusion, I feel that the proposed road would do more harm than good. Rather than building more roads for more cars, the city should improve public transportation. After all, what's more important – our own convenience, or the future of the planet?



- 2** In which paragraph(s) does Andrew ... ?

1. present the issue
2. make a suggestion
3. first express his opinion
4. sum up his ideas
5. give arguments to support his opinion

#### B Catchy Openings

Writers often use catchy openings to "hook" their readers and make them want to read more. For example, they may begin with a question, a story or example, a surprising fact or statistic. This can be done even when writing about a serious subject.

- 1** Which of the "tricks" above for writing a catchy opening did Andrew use?
- 2** Andrew could have begun his composition differently. Read the following alternative openings. Which technique above is used in each one? Which opening uses none of the techniques?
  1. Sara sits helplessly in her car, not moving an inch and growing more and more upset. Almost in tears, she realizes she's going to be late for work again. Now city planners have proposed ...
  2. Traffic jams are a serious problem in our city, and there has been plenty of talk about how to solve it. Now city planners have proposed ...
  3. In the UK, traffic jams cost businesses £15 billion a year in lost working hours – and our city is no exception. In order to help people get to work faster, city planners have proposed ...
- 3** Which of the openings do you like best? Least? Explain.