

4 WRITING STYLES

Writing an Opinion Composition

We express an opinion in writing in order to convince the reader that our viewpoint is correct.

TOPIC The Knesset has passed a new law requiring bicycle riders to wear helmets at all times. What is your opinion of the law?

PLAN

Opening

Presents the issue and your opinion.

Body

Supports your opinion with reasons, facts and examples. Includes a new idea in each paragraph.

Closing

Restates your opinion and makes suggestions.

Title

Paragraph 1

New law requires cyclists to wear helmets. I oppose this.

Paragraph 2

Helmets will discourage cycling.

Paragraph 3

Helmets give cyclists responsibility for safety.

Paragraph 4

Helmets discourage cycling and don't improve safety.
solutions: bicycle paths, driver education

MODEL

Helmets Are Not a Solution

Last year in Israel, 342 people were injured and 14 killed in bicycle accidents. In response, the Knesset passed a law requiring bicycle riders to wear helmets at all times. This may sound like a good idea; nevertheless, I believe that the law is unnecessary and unhelpful.

For one thing, the new law will cause fewer people to ride bicycles. This is because the helmets are uncomfortable and hot, especially in the summer. With global warming on the rise, cycling should be encouraged, not discouraged.

Secondly, requiring helmets gives the impression that cyclists are responsible for their own safety. This is obviously untrue. Most accidents are caused by cars, and it is drivers who must learn to be more careful, in my opinion.

In conclusion, the new law would discourage cycling and put the responsibility in the wrong place. It seems to me that more bicycle paths should be built and drivers should be educated to treat cyclists more carefully instead.

USEFUL LANGUAGE

1. Expressions of opinion and attitude

in my opinion	I think / feel / believe that	obviously
as I see it	I agree / (strongly)	clearly
it seems to me that	disagree	of course
it is clear that	as far as I'm concerned	(un)fortunately
	personally	

2. Connectors

for one thing	firstly	in addition	however	in conclusion
for another thing	secondly	moreover	nevertheless	in short

3. Catchy openings (See page 98.)