

WRITING Expressing an opinion

A Read Liz's opinion about tours at the Paris Catacombs and answer the questions that follow.

Model

In my opinion, the Paris Catacombs shouldn't be a tourist site. First of all, the catacombs are an underground cemetery. The walls of the tunnels in the catacombs aren't stone walls. They are walls of bones piled from floor to ceiling. Some of the bones are even arranged in patterns. Personally, I feel that it is not respectful to have tours there. I think cemeteries should protect the dead. In addition, the guide warned people not to touch the walls, but not everyone listened. The tour made me feel miserable. If you ask me, the Paris Catacombs should be closed to the public.



1. Is Liz "for" or "against" tours in the catacombs?
2. Explain one reason she gives to support her opinion.
3. Find **at least two** expressions that show she is giving her opinion.

B ORGANIZING A PARAGRAPH THAT EXPRESSES AN OPINION

A paragraph that expresses an opinion should be organized as follows:

Opening: State the topic and your opinion.

Middle: Give reasons and examples to support your opinion.

Ending: State your opinion again in different words.

Put the sentences in the correct order to form a paragraph.

- a. First of all, there are several museums, so there's a lot to see and there's something for everyone.
- b. If you ask me, time spent at the Smithsonian is time well spent.
- c. In my opinion, anyone who goes to Washington, D. C. should visit the Smithsonian.
- d. In addition, the museums are free and are open to the public every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

C SUPPORTING YOUR OPINION

When you express an opinion, it is important to give reasons, facts and examples to explain and support your opinion.

1 Read each pair of sentences below. Which sentence expresses an opinion and which supports an opinion?

1. a. I think it's rude to use a cellphone, even to text, during a movie.
b. The bright screen is very annoying.
2. a. Cyclists ride too fast and expect the people walking to get out of their way.
b. If you ask me, bicycles shouldn't be allowed on the sidewalks.