

Lesson 3 Opinions and Reasons

Think of times when you give your opinion. Do you tell what foods you think your family should have for dinner? Do you try to convince your friends to play the game you want to play? Do you try to persuade your parents to let you stay up later?

In each of these cases, after you state your opinion, you probably give reasons why you think your idea is a good one. For example, you might tell your friends that you had a lot of fun playing your game in the past or that you haven't played it together in a while.

It is the same when you write your opinions. Your opinions will be more convincing to your readers when you give good reasons to back them up. Imagine you are writing to your parents to convince them to have pizza for dinner tonight. Circle the reasons that will support your opinion and appeal to your audience.

Pizza is the best choice.

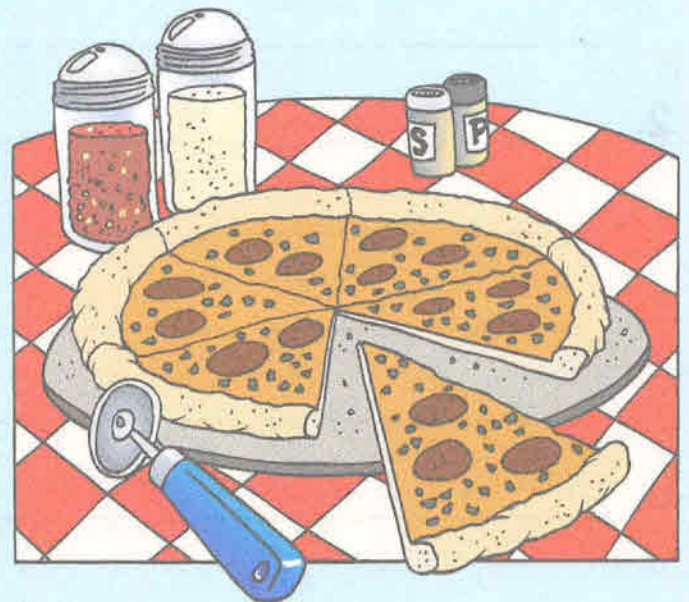
Everyone can choose favorite toppings.

Pizza is a quick and easy meal.

You are dumb if you don't want pizza.

Pizza has healthy tomato sauce and vegetables.

Too much pizza can be bad for you.



Lesson 3 Opinions and Reasons

Look back at the reasons you circled on page 106. Do you notice that the sentences you circled are mostly facts? Facts often make the most convincing reasons. Draw a star by the statement that is most convincing.

Pizza is the best choice tonight because it tastes good.

Pizza is the best choice tonight because it is quick, easy, and nutritious.

You probably drew a star beside the second sentence because it contains an opinion supported by facts. The opinion *pizza is the best choice* is supported by the facts *pizza is quick*, *pizza is easy*, and *pizza is nutritious*. In the first sentence, the opinion *pizza is the best choice* is supported only by another opinion: *pizza tastes good*.

The most persuasive writers link their opinions with convincing facts. Think of a place you would like to visit with your family. On the lines below, write facts about the place to support your argument that your family should visit. Use facts you know and facts you find in encyclopedias, tour books, or travel magazines. If you want to use the Internet to research the place, ask an adult to help you.
