

# Series of Paragraphs

Expressing an opinion on a given topic by writing a mini-essay

# Poor Answer

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Opinion  
Topic Development  
Code 30  
Sample 2

Do teenagers place too much importance on what they wear?

In my opinion, teenagers do put too much importance into what they wear. You see tons of teens that wear all name brand clothing every day. Some people spend hours picking out their clothes.

I believe that people shouldn't put so much time into their looks. I have seen quite a few people start to make fun of teens who don't wear brand name clothing. I think it's disgusting how kids make fun of each other for what they wear.

So, yes, in my opinion teens care way too much about their clothing. We should learn to respect everybody's choices on what they wear.

The response is related to the prompt, and expresses and supports an opinion, **but the opinion is inconsistent (yes in the first paragraph and no in the second paragraph).** There are insufficient supporting details: too few.

# Better Answer

Do teenagers place too much importance on what they wear?

Sample 2

Teenagers have always been called out for many things they care too much about. In my opinion teenagers do place too much importance on what they wear. They spend way too much money, take too long to get ready, and feel 'ugly' if they don't have name brand clothing.

They spend way too much money. Teenagers are so obsessed with looking their best that sometimes they forget about expenses. A shopping trip with only buying couple pairs of pants and skirts and maybe a sweater can cost over 200\$. That is ridiculous. Teenagers should realize appearance is not everything, and they should save their money for something else.

They take too long to get ready. Teenagers who feel the need to have everything new accumulate way too much clothing, leaving them with an insane amount of options. This often makes them take a very long time to get ready. Teenagers who buy clothing alot are very used of taking a long time to pick the "perfect" outfit.

More.....->

# continued

- They feel 'ugly' if they don't have name brand clothing. teens will spend 100\$ on a pair of pants just to buy the label. When in reality they can get the same material and quality of pants somewhere else for 20\$. Without having this clothing teenagers feel below others so it takes a toll on self-esteem. They feel weird or out of place if they don't fit in with everyone around them.

In conclusion, you can clearly see teenagers place too much importance on what they wear. They spend too much money, take a long time to get ready and feel ugly if they don't have name brand clothing. They have to start seeing themselves as beautiful people even without the brand name clothing.



# Assessment

A clear and consistent opinion (teenagers do place too much importance on what they wear) is developed with sufficient specific supporting details (they spend too much money; they take too long to get ready; they feel “ugly” if they don’t have name brand clothing).

Specific details and examples develop the argument: (pants and shirts and maybe a sweater can cost over 200\$; they can get the same material and quality of pants somewhere else for 20\$). The organization is logical.

There is a clear introduction, body and conclusion. Ideas are clustered into paragraphs. Each paragraph includes a clear topic sentence and details that develop it.

# Strategies for the Series of Paragraphs

- Read the topic question and decide what **position you will take** in your response.
- Clearly **state your opinion** at the beginning and end of your response.
- Make it like a mini-essay. **Include an introduction, explanation of reasons, and a conclusion.**
- Support your opinion with reasons and relevant examples or facts. **Pretend that you are like a lawyer presenting a case and supporting it with arguments.**
- Make sure the **divisions between paragraphs are clear.**