

## Script 7

# Expressing and Justifying an Opinion Effectively

Hi,

One of the most important skills you need to develop is your ability to express an idea or opinion and then justify (the word justify appears on screen) it by:

developing or explaining that idea

AND

supporting that idea

This is an extremely important skill that you will need to use in your final task and in many other future assignments.

It sounds simple, but there are many little traps you'll want to avoid.

Let me explain.

Let's use a question to get started:

Which of these two people did you find the most inspiring:

Jerron Herman or Amanda LaCount?

Hmmm, I need to state my opinion by formulating a complete sentence that answers this question.

For example...

Amanda LaCount has the most inspiring story I've heard in a long time.

Jerron Herman's story is definitely the most inspiring.

Amanda La Count tells the most inspiring story.

The story that I found the most inspiring was Jerron Herman's.

Notice how these answers are more complete than just answering:

Amanda LaCount

Now let's make this answer even more complete!

Let's justify it!

Let's justify why that was more inspiring!

The first thing to do when justifying is to develop the answer by explaining it or by saying why you think a certain way.

Let's use the same example.

Ok, so...

(I think that) Amanda LaCount's story is the most inspiring.

By the way, notice that you don't need to write I think that unless you want it to make it very clear that it is you who thinks like that.

Now you need to justify why you think this person is the most inspiring...

(Because) First, her story can inspire perseverance.

Again, notice that you can write the word because and then you can just remove it when you're finished to make the sentence stronger.

Amanda LaCount's story is the most inspiring.

First, her story can inspire perseverance.

or

Because her story can inspire perseverance.

However, we can and we will go a little bit further in our development by supporting what we say with elements from the texts:

In this case, I need to use elements from the texts that demonstrate that she is persevering.

Use your NOTES to remember the texts.

Amanda LaCount never gave up her passion for dancing = perseverance.

Elements that support this:

Her dance teacher said she did not fit his vision.

Could have been discouraged, but decided to prove him wrong.

Trained very hard.

Became professional dancer -superstar videos

See how those elements support the idea of never abandoning her passion for dancing?

Now let's look at this example as a text:

Amanda LaCount's story is, without a doubt, the most inspiring.

First, Amanda's story can inspire perseverance because she never gave up her passion for dancing. For example, one day, her dance teacher said she did not fit his vision of a dancer because of her shape. Many people would have quit, but Amanda decided to prove him wrong and became a professional dancer who has since appeared in celebrities' videos dancing with the biggest names in the industry.

That looks easy, right?

But, I told you there were traps!

Watch the next video clip to discover them.