

Script 8

Expressing and Justifying an Opinion Effectively

Hey, if you're here it means you want to get better at writing and you want to avoid some common errors that students make when writing their opinion.

So let's go right ahead start with trap number:

Trap #1: Not answering the question

That sounds like an easy trap to avoid but every year hundreds of students go off track by doing something like this:

Which of the two stories did you find the most inspiring?

Answer: Jerron Herman's story was more fun to watch.

There are chances that, if you start off-topic, you'll continue to be off-topic.

Woah, that student totally went off-topic!

Trap #2: Developing and supporting an idea with other disconnected ideas

Consider this:

First, Amanda never gave up her passion for dancing. She's a really good dancer. She trains for many hours every week. She can represent young people because we don't always fit the stereotypes. I think she can inspire students to do what they want in

life. It's a good idea.

I'm sure the main argument is here somewhere...

Yep, keep looking for that main idea, folks!

Trap #3: Providing support that does not go back to your idea or supports another idea

First, Amanda is very persevering. She never gave up her passion for dancing. She trained really hard. She went on a TV show and she was in magazines. Today, she has a project called #breakingthestereotype.

That sounds ok, but does it really explain why she's persevering? Not really.

So remember:

When you're asked to justify your choices, ideas and opinions, you need to:

Corner Text next to host:

Think about what you really want to express (your opinion).

Explain why you think that way (develop your opinion).

Demonstrate the validity of what you've just expressed with supporting elements (provide support from the texts).

With practice, your paragraphs will be clear, solid and credible.

Speaking of practice, we came up with some exercises that could help you become a justification master. Go have a look!