

Opinion essay

It is important to distinguish between facts and opinions. Opinions are subjective statements based on a person's beliefs or attitudes.

Men are better drivers than women.

Smoking is a bad habit.

English is an easy language to learn.

Opinions and facts

- Academic writing wants you to express your own ideas. These are opinions.
- Opinions **are not acceptable** as support.
- If you express an opinion, you must support it with facts. Facts are **objective statements** of truths.

At sea level, water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.

Women live longer than men.

Cigarettes are addictive.

Opinions and facts

- You have to use specific supporting details to prove that these statements are true facts.
- Kinds of specific supporting details include examples, statistics, and quotations.

Photographs of ultrathin fashion models send the wrong message to girls and young women.

Fashion models are unnaturally thin.

The average model weighs 25 percent less than the average woman of the same height.

