

Step 4: YOUR OPINION!

I would like to note at this point that you have already written at least 3 pages on your activist, and spent a whole month researching them, without ever giving your own opinion. YES!! This is how much work it takes to have a valuable opinion that should matter to anyone. I am proud of you and your valuable opinion.

Now you get to share your opinion with us! In your fourth paragraph, try to answer the following questions:

1. What do you think about your activist?
2. Why does your activist matter to you?
3. What is the most important thing your activist has done to advance their cause?
4. Why does this cause matter to the world?

OK! Write your opinion in your final paragraph! See the next page for a word bank of ways to express an opinion.

There is a chance you might want to write multiple paragraphs about this. That is fine. The difference between a multi-paragraph opinion and a rant is organization. Each paragraph should address ONE major aspect of your opinion of your activist, then move on.

Expressing an Opinion*

I think/believe that . . .

In my opinion, . . .

Based on my experience, I think . . .

Language of Justification

I believe this because...

My primary reason for thinking so is...

Perhaps the most convincing reason for this is...

Language of Persuasion

Based on the evidence presented so far, I believe that...

Although some people claim that..., opponents argue that....

It is vital to consider...

The advantages of _____ outweigh the disadvantages of _____ insofar as...

The statistics are misleading because they do/not show...

These [facts/reasons/data] strongly suggest that... Yet some argue strongly that....