Writing an Opinion paragraph.
(a thought or believe of something or someone).

This paragraph is made of three basic elements.

1. A topic sentence.
2. A reason.
4. A conclusion.

1. TOPIC SENTENCE (Agreement or disagreement.) (in this case on the topic “lotteries should be banned)

I strongly agree that lotteries should be banned.

For writing a topic sentence you can use any of these patterns.

I totally agree that … (subject -verb)
I disagree that…  (subject -verb)
I don’t agree… (subject -verb)
I am for/against the idea that...
There are _____(some ) reasons why .....(marijuana should be legalized)

Examples.

I completely agree that marijuana should be legalized.
There are 3 simple reasons why marijuana should be legalized. First ..... 

2. REASONS ( in this case three reasons on the topic “lotteries should be banned”)
The reasons explain why you agree or disagree on the topic.

lotteries are a waste of money.
Lotteries are addictive
Lotteries are not really a good chance to make money

To introduce a reason you can you use any of these transition words.

Reason 1: First, Firstly, first of all, to begin with
Reason 2: In addition, Secondly, moreover, furthermore, Another reason is That ...
Reason 3 : third, thirdly, Finally.

Example: First, as I see it, lotteries are a waste of money... (Supporting details) .Secondly, Lotteries are addictive ... (Supporting details). Finally, Lotteries are not really a good chance to make money.
You can use any of these expressions to state your opinion when you introduce an opinion.

In my opinion, as I see it, to my view, I consider (that), I think (that), on my point of view. I am convinced that, It seems to me that, I feel, I believe (strongly firmly).

Example: FIRST, I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT LOTTERIES ARE A WASTE OF MONEY...

SUPPORTING DETAILS

The supporting details are included after the reasons. They are the arguments that support your reason.

Example:
Reason 1: lotteries are a waste of money
Supporting detail: Less money to buy things we need

To begging with, I strongly believe that lotteries are a waste of money. Every time we buy the lottery we have less money to buy things we need such as medicines or food.

Reason 2: Lotteries are addictive
Supporting detail: If you don’t win, you want more tickets.

Another reason is that playing the lottery is addictive. When we buy a lottery ticket and we don’t win, we may buy more and more tickets.

Reason 3: lotteries are not really a good chance to make money.
Supporting detail: winning the lottery depend only on luck

Finally, I consider that playing the lottery is not a really good chance to make money because we can’t use our abilities or skills to win the lottery. Wining the lottery depends only on luck.

CONCLUSION:

You can use any of these transition words to beggin your conclusion

To sum up, in brief, in short, to conclude, al in all, in conclusion.

Example:

To conclude, I believe that it is not a good idea to buy the lottery because it is a waste of money, it is addictive and it is not really a good chance to make money.
COMPLETE PARAGRAPH.

Lotteries should be banned

I strongly agree that lotteries should be banned. To begin with, I strongly believe that lotteries are a waste of money. Every time we buy the lottery we have less money to buy things we need such as medicines or food. Another reason is that playing the lottery is addictive. When we buy a lottery ticket and we don’t win, we may buy more and more tickets. Finally, I consider that playing the lottery is not a really good chance to make money because we can’t use our abilities or skills to win the lottery. Winning the lottery depends only on luck. To conclude, I believe that it is not a good idea to buy the lottery because it is a waste of money, it is addictive, and it is not really a good chance to make money.

Word count: 138

Recommendations:

- After you take a position on the topic, Organize your reasons and your supporting details.
- You can write notes for your reasons and supporting details, and then expand them into sentences.
- You can use more than one supporting detail to make your argument stronger.
- You can use a graphic a table to organize your ideas before you start writing.

(see the box below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reasons</th>
<th>Supporting details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Waste of money</td>
<td>Less money to buy necessary things (medicine – food)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>......</td>
<td></td>
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<td>......</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Activity.

1) Select a controversial topic to write an opinion paragraph. (Death penalty, abortion, experiments on animals, organ donations, prisons etc, gay marriage)

2) Write a controversial title (you can use a question) – “Is gay marriage a good for our society?”

3) Decide if you are for or against the topic.

4) Organize your reasons and your supporting details using a graphic or table or map etc.

5) Write your opinion paragraph. USE MICROSOFT WORD (to make comments) - use at least 150 words; you can write more than one supporting detail for your reasons.

6) Send the word document to my e-mail account. andresfcrow@hotmail.com or andresfcuervo@gmail.com (write your full name in the mail and in the document).

YOU NEED TO SEND THIS PARAGRAPH BEFORE MIDNIGHT (April the 7th 2011)