



What Could You Save For and Why?

Standard 1.W.1:

Write opinion pieces that introduce the topic, state an opinion, supply evidence for the opinion, and provide a concluding statement.

Objective:

Students will learn how to write a simple opinion piece by stating what they want to save money for, explaining why, and supporting their opinion with reasons. They will practice writing complete sentences and create a short paragraph with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Materials:

- Chart paper or whiteboard
- Markers
- “Opinion Writing” anchor chart (with sentence starters)
- Paper and pencils
- Crayons or colored pencils
- Example pictures of things to save for (e.g., bike, toy, pet, book, trip, game)
- Optional: piggy bank or jar for a visual of “saving money”

Lesson Introduction (10–15 minutes):

Begin with a class discussion:

Ask:

- “What does it mean to save money?”
- “What are some things you would like to save for?”

Show pictures of different items (toy, pet, book, trip) and write student responses on the board.



Explain:

“When we write an opinion, we tell what we think or feel about something and give reasons why.”

Create an **Opinion Writing Anchor Chart** with this structure:

1. **Introduce the topic** — What are you saving for?
2. **State your opinion** — What do you think or want?
3. **Give reasons** — Why do you want to save for it?
4. **Write a conclusion** — Remind the reader of your opinion.

Example (Model Writing on the Board):

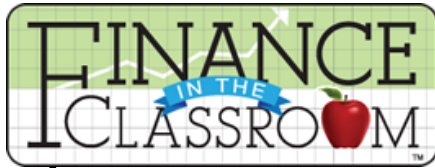
- **Topic:** I want to save for a bike.
- **Opinion:** I think saving for a bike is a great idea.
- **Reasons:** I can ride it to the park, and it helps me stay healthy.
- **Conclusion:** That’s why I want to save my money for a bike.

Writing Practice (Discussion Guide):

Step	Purpose	Example Sentence Starter
Topic	Introduce what you’re saving for.	“I want to save for...”
Opinion	Tell your opinion or feeling.	“I think it’s a good idea because...”
Reasons	Give two or more reasons why.	“It would help me...” or “I would like it because...”

Conclusion End with your opinion again. “That’s why I want to save for...” Ask students:

- “How does giving reasons help your opinion sound stronger?”
- “What could you do to save money for the thing you want?”



Activity: Write and Illustrate Your Opinion Piece (20–30 minutes):

Instructions:

1. Give each student writing paper with lines and space for an illustration.
2. Students will write their own short opinion piece using this frame:
 - I want to save for _____.
 - I think it's a good idea because _____.
 - _____.
 - That's why I want to save for _____.
3. Encourage students to use at least two reasons.
4. After writing, students draw a picture of what they are saving for and how they might save (piggy bank, chores, etc.).

Optional Extension:

Have students share their writing with a partner or the class.

Create a bulletin board titled **“What We’re Saving For!”** with their writing and pictures.

Closing Discussion (5–10 minutes):

Gather students together and discuss:

- “What did you choose to save for?”
- “Why is it important to give reasons for your opinion?”
- “How can we save money in real life?”

Summarize:

“When we write an opinion, we tell what we think and explain why. Everyone’s opinion is important!”

Extension Ideas:

- **Math Connection:** Create a classroom savings goal (e.g., earn pretend coins for good choices).



- **Family Connection:** Send home a mini “Savings Jar” template for students to color and use at home.
- **Reading Connection:** Read *“Those Shoes”* by Maribeth Boelts or *“The Berenstain Bears’ Trouble with Money”* and discuss what the characters saved for.
- **Digital Extension:** Use a drawing app or digital journal to type and illustrate their opinion piece.