**Opinion Paragraph**

**Facts and Opinions**

A fact is a piece of information that is true: That film was three hours long.

An opinion is an idea or belief about a particular subject: That film was boring.

Writers use facts to support their opinions and to show why they hold their beliefs.

**Model Auxiliaries**

When you speak, you introduce opinions with phrases like ***I think, In my opinion, and I believe***. In general, these introductory phrases are not needed in writing. They can even make you sound less sure of your ideas. Instead, writers use grammatical methods such as modal auxiliary verbs and transition words to express their opinions. Modal auxiliary verbs show the strength of a writer's opinion or argument.

Connectors of cause and effect

How to use connectors of cause and effect for expressing opinions

***Because, since, and so*** are connectors of cause and effect. They join two ideas when one idea causes or explains the other. ***Because and since*** introduce the cause or reason, and ***so*** and ***therefore*** introduce the effect or result, for example:

1- Because petrol is becoming scarce and expensive, we should develop electric cars.

2- We should develop electric cars, since petrol is becoming scarce and expensive.

3- Petrol is becoming scarce and expensive, so we should develop electric cars.

***Therefore*** is highly different. It joins the ideas in two sentences, for example:

4- Petrol is becoming scarce and expensive. Therefore, we should develop electric cars.

Punctuation Note:

* When ***because*** or ***since*** begin a sentence, use a comma after the first part of the sentence (the cause).
* When the effect or result comes first, don't use a comma before ***because*** and ***since***.
* A result or effect beginning ***so*** is usually the second part of a sentence. Use a comma before ***so***.
* Use ***therefore*** after a full stop.
* Use a comma after ***therefore***.