Expert Group One: Supporting Your Opinion

Presentation: Lesson Content

Support consists of evidence. The four kinds of evidence, adapted from LeBeau, Harrington, Lubetsky (2000), are:

- **Example:** from your own experience or from what you heard or read.
- **Common Sense:** things that you believe everybody knows.
- **Expert Opinion:** the opinions of experts -- this comes from research.
- **Statistics:** numbers -- this also comes from research.

Opinion: Smoking should be banned in all public places.

Example: For example… / For instance… / Let me give an example…
. . . whenever I go to a restaurant or bar and there are people smoking near me, I feel that I am breathing their smoke. This makes me a smoker even though I don't want to be.

Common Sense: Everyone knows… / If... then… / It's common knowledge that…
. . . secondhand smoke is very unhealthy for nonsmokers.

Statistics: Studies show … / Researches have proven …
. . . secondhand smoke causes about 250,000 respiratory infections in infants and children every year, resulting in about 15,000 hospitalizations each year.

Expert Opinion: According to.../ To quote.../ The book _____ says...
. . . according to the Environmental Protection Agency, "secondhand smoke causes approximately 3,000 lung cancer deaths in nonsmokers each year."

Practice:

1. *Choose one of your three opinions from the Debate Introduction.*
2. *Try to write an example support statement for each type of support listed here using the class materials as sources.*

Example:_____

Common Sense:_____

Statistics:_____

Expert Opinion:_____