

Family Position Paragraph

Directions: After discussion in your group about the advantages and disadvantages of different family positions and listening to *THE PAIN AND THE GREAT ONE* by Judy Blume, you will write a paragraph focusing on the advantages OR disadvantages of being in the position you are within your family structure. Your paragraph should begin with an opening sentence stating your view of your family position. Some sample opening sentences are as follows:

- **There are many advantages (or disadvantages) to being the “baby” in my family.**
- **Being the oldest child in my family has several disadvantages (or advantages) that my siblings don’t share.**
- **I really love (or hate) being the “middle child” in my family for a variety of reasons.**

After you write your opening sentence, you must write three reasons that explain what the advantages or disadvantages are, and with each reason, you must write another sentence that gives a specific example of exactly HOW it is an advantage or disadvantage. An example follows:

First, it is an advantage to be the youngest in the family because most of the time, I don’t have to do many chores around the house. My parents automatically ask my big sister to vacuum, do the dishes and the laundry, and help my brother clean the bathrooms, but they forget to ask me to help.

When you have finished writing the three detail sentences with example sentences for each, you need to write a concluding sentence to close the paragraph. An example follows:

All in all, being the “baby” in the family is fun since I really have very few chores, I usually get my way about what we watch on television, and my parents are so mellow now that I get to do things that my sister and brother had to be sixteen to do!

Try to use transitional words to help your sentences flow smoothly. I request that your paragraph be written neatly in blue or black ink or typed.

Family Position Paragraph
Student Anchor Papers

Being the oldest child in my family, I have several advantages that my siblings don't share. The first advantage to being the oldest child in the family is that I get special privileges. For example, I get to talk on the phone, stay up late, and go to the mall with my friends. The second advantage is that I get to tell my little brother and sisters what to do, since I'm the oldest. I remember when my mother let me baby-sit for my brother who was eight, and my baby sister who was only eight weeks old. I bossed them around. The third advantage is that I get a bigger allowance than my brother. I get at least five dollars more than he does every week! I like being the oldest because I have privileges, I get to boss people, and I get more money!

There are a lot of advantages to being the middle child. One reason is because I'm the only girl, or should I say I'm a mommy's girl. For example, when I do overtime work and then go to the store, she gets things for me, like clothes, shoes, and hair ties. My second reason is I never have to do many jobs because I'm a girl. For example, whenever we have to do an hour of work, all I have to do is vacuum. My third and last reason is that I get money and clothes. For example, when I go to the mall, I get a lot of clothes. Well, all in all, I think I have it made as the middle child!

There are disadvantages to being the baby in the family. The first is, if anyone gets mad at me, they can beat me up. For example, if I say something they don't like they can pound me! Second, if I try to pull a trick, I usually get caught because my brothers and sisters have already tried it. Third, they get everything before me, as far as dates, going to the mall, and of course, driving. Fourth, my bedtime is about an hour earlier than theirs. Fifth, I'm the last to know things. Just the other day my sisters went to get tickets to the ice show for the family and I never knew that until after they had left. Sixth, I hate being called the baby. When I meet someone, they'll say, "So, you're the baby of the family." I hate that! So, you can see why I don't like being the baby.

Family Position Paragraph Checklist

One point for each criterion shown in the paragraphs. Criteria includes the following:

_____ Paragraph about the picture book story tells how a character's position in the family (point of view) affected how that character viewed events in the story.

_____ Opening sentence that tells student's family position and states whether position is an advantage or disadvantage.

_____ Includes valid reasons that explain the advantages or disadvantages of stated family position.

_____ Each reason has a corresponding specific example.

_____ Contains a concluding sentence that restates student's viewpoint.

5 Points – Student understands concept in the standard.

3-4 Points – Student has a partial understanding of the concept. After teacher feedback, student should rewrite the paragraph.

2 Points – Student has a limited understanding of the concept. After teacher feedback, student should rewrite the paragraph.

1 Point – Student has very limited or no understanding of the concept. Student requires re-teaching, examples, and practice in order to master this concept.

0 Points – Student has no understanding of the concept. Student requires re-teaching, examples, and practice in order to master this concept.