

## Writing Activity: Position Paper

**Directions:** Pick one of the following quotations and write a position paper on why you agree or disagree with it. Use the steps on the following screens to prepare your thoughts.

*“ . . . there’s nobody bigger than a man who learns to grow.”*  
from “The Growin’ of Paul Bunyan”

*“You don’t fool around with Natural law and get away with it.”*  
from “Wisdomkeepers”

*“ . . . the smartest thing they could have done after the [Exxon Valdez oil] spill is not one single thing.”*  
from “Is Humanity A Special Threat?”

## Writing Activity: Position Paper

I. Decide which quotation you wish to write about.

II. Do you agree or disagree with the quotation? \_\_\_\_\_

III. Write down three to five reasons for your position.

A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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D. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

IV. Identify counterarguments to each of your reasons and consider how to address them.

V. Use the strongest three to four reasons in your paper. Support your reasoning with details: examples, facts, explanations. Show why other positions are not as strong as yours.

## Writing Activity: Position Paper

### **A position paper**

- begins with a statement of the writer's position, or claim
- uses examples to support the claim
- addresses counterarguments and shows their weaknesses
- presents information clearly and logically
- concludes by restating the writer's claim