Sample Position Statement

❶ Think about the positions you could take on a topic.

Topic: Should skateboards be allowed on public sidewalks?

Possible positions:

- For/against skateboards being allowed on all public sidewalks
- For skateboards on all public sidewalks with fines for trick riding
- For skateboards on some public sidewalks

❷ Brainstorm reasons to support your position on the topic.

Position: For skateboards on some public sidewalks

Possible Reasons:

- Skateboarding can be used as an alternative form of transportation, helping to reduce the number of cars on the road.
- Skateboarding is an active form of transportation, which can promote physical fitness.
- Some sidewalks have high levels of foot traffic, and skateboarding on crowded sidewalks could be dangerous.

❸ Put those reasons together to create a one- or two-sentence position statement.

Position statement:
Skateboards should be allowed on public sidewalks except in areas of high pedestrian traffic. Allowing skateboards on all but the most crowded sidewalks would promote alternative transportation and physical fitness while reducing risks to pedestrians.

© 2015 National Geographic Society