



Giving your opinion

Examples of **formal** situations are:

- contributing your ideas to a meeting at work
- speaking at a neighbourhood association meeting on an issue of local importance
- taking part in a debate

Examples of **informal** situations are:

- talking with friends about a shared interest or hobby
- telling someone about a holiday you have just been on
- talking about a programme you saw on television last night

In any of these situations, planning what you are going to say and organising your ideas in advance can help you express your opinion more clearly and confidently.

People often follow a similar **pattern** when they give an opinion. They:

- say what they think
- give a reason or reasons for their view
- give an example or examples
- restate or repeat their view

Have a look at the pattern in this opinion about sport on television:

What they think	I think there is far too much sport on television. I would rather have more drama or crime programmes.
A reason for their view	Sports programmes take up too much of the prime viewing time and other types of programme get squeezed out or pushed back into a late slot.
Another reason	It's not fair. People who don't want to watch sport don't have much choice.
An example	Last night there was football on three main channels for four hours. It took up the whole evening.
Repeat their opinion	I really think sport gets too much viewing time.

Listen out for this pattern when you hear people expressing opinions on television discussion programmes.