



## **Writing an Editorial (Op-ed)**

An editorial is a way for a individual to express their own opinion rather than taking an objective approach to a story.

The topic should be a current news story, event, or upcoming event.

The editorial should be about 600 words long, no more than 800.

An editorial needs to include a clearly stated argument or thesis within the first paragraph. The thesis should be supported by compelling and informed opinion.

Personal opinion is valued in Editorials. Your opinion should be stated in a rational manner and supported by sources and quotations. It is appropriate to use limited emotion. Strong emotions will not persuade your readers. Simply expressing distaste and disappointment can be more affective than using an aggressive tone. NEVER name call.

Make sure your facts are valid. Clarify if a statement is your opinion.

Use persuasive, clear and active language. Avoid a weak narrative that rambles and runs into tangents. Be concise.

Use proper grammar and punctuation; use simple language and avoid jargon or academic language. Keep your audience in mind.

A distinctive and entertaining style can be vital in gaining your editorial notice by editors and readers. Using humor to illustrate your points and agenda can be helpful. A good editorial contains material that is fresh and original and provides an enlightened view.