
Editorial Essay OVERVIEW

▪ **Purpose & Characteristics of Editorial writing**

“An editorial is an article that presents the newspaper's opinion on an issue. It reflects the majority vote of the editorial board, the governing body of the newspaper made up of editors and business managers. It is usually unsigned.

Much in the same manner of a lawyer, editorial writers

build on an argument and try to persuade readers to think the same way they do.



[An Op-ed., on the other hand, is an essay in a newspaper or magazine that gives the opinion of the writer and that is written by someone who is not employed by the newspaper or magazine. The **purpose** of the editorial essay is to write about a topic that matters to you]. Editorials are meant to influence public opinion, promote critical thinking, and sometimes cause people to take action on an issue. In essence, an editorial is an opinionated news story” (Resource: Geneseo Writing Center). You will combine ***rhetorical techniques*** and writing skills to produce a well-written editorial using ***credible sources*** to provide a convincing argument about your self-selected topic.

▪ **Process:**

There will be **a timeline for various due dates** regarding the essay (*will be distributed this 1/22 when we begin researching and completing source cards*). Due dates are subject to change according to classroom progress regarding coverage of certain requirements and weather related issues. *You will be expected to participate in and complete activities (such as source finding, outlining, drafting, peer-editing and revisions) that are part of the process of writing this paper daily in class for the next few weeks.* In addition, anything that is not completed in class must be completed on your own.

■ Grading:

Each of these assignments will be graded and some will be counted as **HW and/or minor assessment grades for the remaining of Quarter II**. The final draft of the paper itself will be counted for **ONE major assessment grade (counting for Quarter III)**.

REQUIREMENTS:

- A. **Viewpoint:** Editorial states a clear opinion and issues a call to action through argument based on evidence.
- B. **Evidence:** Editorial uses compelling evidence to support the opinion, and cites reliable sources
- Writers must use *at least 3 (CREDIBLE) outside sources* that relate to their topic and support/counter argue their claims. ***At least one source must be from the NY Times newspaper.** Sources can include books, newspapers, scholarly journals, magazines, PRE-APPROVED Internet sites, personal interviews, court documents, textbooks, etc.*
 - Writers **must incorporate the rhetorical strategies** covered in our unit: **logos, ethos, and pathos.**
- C. **Analysis and Persuasion:** Editorial convincingly argues point of view by providing relevant background information, using valid examples, acknowledging counter-claims, and developing claims -- all in a clear and organized fashion.
- D. **Language:** Editorial has a strong voice and engages the reader. It uses language, style and tone appropriate to its purpose and features correct grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- E. **Guidelines:**
- Editorial follows all contest guidelines, including a maximum word count of 450 words and inclusion of at least one Times and two non-Times source. ***(This may be tough!!).***
 - Final essay must be **typed in MLA format**: double spaced, 12-point font of the following font styles ONLY: Times New Roman, Arial (not Arial narrow, black or bold) or Candara. Paper must have one-inch margins on all sides with correctly formatted heading, page numbers and **works cited page (citing your *minimum 3* sources.)**

ATTENTION: *SAVING your progress is VITAL!!*

*You are responsible to electronically SAVE your work every step of the way. Using **GOOGLE DOCS** is the way to go!! In addition, plan to save the web sources you visit frequently throughout EACH class period.



Below are Pertinent due DATES*:

**Keep in mind: classes will serve as mini-writing lessons and writer's workshops to assist you with each step of the writing process. You are responsible to adhere to these deadlines, even if that means finishing what could not be accomplished in our class at home for HW.*

- **JANUARY 12th** – **Topics** were due. Students must gain approval of their topic.
- **JANUARY 22nd** – **SOURCE CARDS** due (By this date you should have at least credible **3 sources** to utilize as sources to quote/support your argument (logos) ***FYI:*** one of your three sources **MUST** be a NY Times news article to adhere to the NY Times student editorial contest rules.)
- **January 23rd** – **CLAIM/Thesis statement due.**
- **JANUARY 24th** – a completed copy of your **Works Cited page** is due –share with me via Google Classroom.
- **JANUARY 25th** – Completed Graphic Organizer due.
- **JANUARY 28th**– **Rough Draft (TYPED & PRINTED)** due at the beginning of the period (*Draft must be on time to benefit from the peer-review & to receive credit*).
- **JANUARY 29th– 30th** –**Peer-review conducted in class** – *you will receive your peer-review edited work back at the beginning of the period on 1/31.*
- **FEBRUARY 1st**– Final Draft **HARD COPY** turned in in the *beginning* of the class period **AND** shared with me on Google Classroom. After the beginning of the period, the paper is considered **LATE**. -5pts. will be deducted per day late.

Your finished product must be **a MAXIMUM of 450 words, typed and double-spaced** adhering to the basics of **MLA formatting rules** (*as reviewed in class*).

REMINDER : LATE ASSIGNMENTS *merits -5 points PER DAY late.*