



## Current Event Op-ed Assignment

Submit an article of about 750 words on a current event or issue of importance to you

### **Steps**

1. Choose an event from the news you're following or is of particular interest to you, or that you'd like to analyze on a deeper level.
2. Compile contextual information on that event (using news sources and professional opinions) that will help to set the stage for your Op-Ed. (Note: having a good understanding of the context surrounding the event of your choice will strengthen your writing.)
3. Outline the argument in your own words. Start with a strong thesis sentence that ties together the rest of your article. Find supporting evidence from the scene of your choice.
4. Think about who your audience will be. Will you try to explain it to policymakers, parents, or voters? Think about the perspective from which you're writing. What issues will your op-ed address? Keep in mind that whoever/whatever topic you address, your writing should try to persuade someone who disagrees with you.
5. Create a draft of your article. Make sure to focus on the persuasiveness of the argument, at this point. Have someone read it. What questions did they have? Did they find it unclear? Is your piece convincing?
6. Fix the errors you encounter in Step 5 and focus on final touches (grammar, syntax, clarity).

### **Learning Goals:**

- To defend a perspective by researching and writing about nuances of their opinion. If students can empathize with and understand the nuances of an argument, especially one they may disagree with, they will be better skilled to debate and defend their position on the topic.
- To encourage students to be "public intellectuals" who are capable of sharing their work with the broader public.



Name:

Date:

## Topic Proposal

1. Topic/issue: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Briefly explain the position you're taking

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3. List at least 3 sources that you will use to inform your position

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