



## Historical Op-ed Assignment

Submit an article of about 750 words, written from the perspective of someone living in a historical period.

### **Steps**

1. Choose an event or period in time that is of particular interest to you, or about which you'd like to learn more.
2. Research that topic by compiling several primary sources (firsthand accounts of the event). In this exercise, primary sources may be cited in your writing, while secondary sources could help inform your position.
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 for your case using your compilation of sources.
4. Think about who your audience will be. Will you try to explain it to policymakers, parents, or voters? Keep in mind that whoever you address, your writing should convey the context of the historical period you chose.
5. Create a draft of your article. Make sure to focus on the accuracy and 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 think with a different perspective by imagining oneself in a historical setting and writing from that perspective. If students can empathize with and understand the nuances of an argument, particularly 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/historical period: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Briefly explain the position you're taking

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

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