

Project: Opinion Piece / Op-Ed

The first major writing assignment that we will be working on together in class is an Op-Ed, a journalistic opinion piece based on current topics of debate within your chosen communities.

The purpose of writing an Op-Ed is to train these skills:

- cultivating persuasive, argumentative prose;
- supplying logical evidence to support claims;
- examining and responding to others' viewpoints;
- refining sentence- and paragraph-level revisions.

Assignment: Compose an op-ed of approximately 1,200-1,400 words (4 pages typed, double-spaced).

| | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| Deadlines: | Draft 1 | Sunday, February 21, 6.00 pm EST Upload to assigned group Google folder Minimum 800 words |
| | Draft 2 | Sunday, February 28, 6.00pm EST Upload to assigned group Google folder Minimum 1,000 words |
| | Final | Saturday, March 6 – Wednesday, March 10 <i>Individual deadlines selected during Week 5</i> Upload to Canvas – Under Assignments tab |

Details:

Your op-ed will take a stance on a topic of debate within (or about) your community. This issue should be one that members of your community have invested opinions about. Your op-ed will articulate a specific, concrete, and nuanced viewpoint that situates itself within the broader conversation that is currently (or recently) happening about this topic. Support your viewpoint by incorporating information, ideas, quotes, and opinions from other sources as well as logical examples, reasoning, and anecdotes based upon your own experiences.

Your op-ed should:

- Open with an introduction that utilizes “they say, I say” rhetorical moves.
- Answer a central question to which other op-eds are also responding.
- Define a strong point of view that relates to others' views but is explicitly unique.
- Integrate reference to at least 2 other sources; references can be cited using hyperlinks or MLA parenthetical citations.
- Adopt a strong, polished writing style using strategies we have discussed in class.