

ESSAY 4: EDITORIALIZING

First Draft

Due: Thurs, 11/29

First Draft:

We've been working on editorials with their brevity and powerful language. Authors of editorials (including bloggers) make assumptions about their audiences: education, interests, age, economic status, popular culture references, ethnicity/race, religious beliefs or political inclinations. For this draft, you will employ these shortcuts and powerful use of language to write your own editorial. Your topic is based on your letter to the editor (WE5) and the response (WE4). In your last exercise, you wrote for a limited audience. Your aim was to take a stand, to turn your concerns into words. Turn now to a larger, perhaps more critical, audience. Revise your 150-word letter to the editor into a full-blown editorial.

Your editorial need not cause every reader to agree with you, but you must take a stand on the issue while trying to persuade others to accept your point of view. To know enough to accomplish that end, you must get even closer to the issue, drawing on your own experience and on other sources, as you've been doing in other essays. You might consider interviews with experts, or with others, like yourself, who are concerned about the controversial issue that you have identified. This does not mean that you need to do any Internet searching. Instead, stay in real life and talk to people or read through the newspaper. Remember, we've also been using all kinds of evidence to support arguments – go back to those basics to find evidence for your idea.

As you broaden your considerations, deliberately seek out sources that disagree with your preliminary assessment of the controversy. Acknowledge the other side by referring to the opposing view, if only tangentially.

Remember that in an editorial – where space is limited – the best evidence is often careful reasoning. Think about how such reasoning might differ from bald assertions, how it can reflect, in limited space, the research you have done. Though not required, outside resources (including interviews) should be documented in a Works Cited.

Throughout this semester, we have been discussing the mechanics of writing (punctuation, grammar, etc.) as well as effective style. In this draft, you need to be an efficient editor of your writing, using clear and powerful language to convince readers of your argument.

Email 1 copy to me by 1pm on 11/29. Bring 1 copy to class for Group Workshop.

Page Length: 1000 words

Administrative Notes:

- ▶ This assignment needs to be typed, double-spaced with one inch margins.
- ▶ Type your name, the date and the exercise or draft number on your written assignment.
- ▶ Type your name and the page number in the upper right corner of every page.
- ▶ Give this exercise an original title (of your creation).
- ▶ Staple the pages together. (DO NOT FOLD OR PAPERCLIP YOUR PAGES.)
- ▶ Proofread everything before you turn it in. There should be no spelling or typographical errors.

Writing Tips

- ▶ Use details & analyze them.
- ▶ Analyze personal experience.
- ▶ Unless using PE, avoid I, we, us, our.
- ▶ Avoid run-on & fragment sentences.
- ▶ Make sure each sentence connects to the next.
- ▶ Place punctuation inside quotation marks.
- ▶ Use signal phrases to introduce a quote.
- ▶ Include author/title in that quote's introduction.
- ▶ Analyze/discuss/connect the quote to your idea.
- ▶ Use MLA in-text citation method.
- ▶ Avoid wordy sentences (simplify).
- ▶ Use appropriate language (avoid clichés & slang).
- ▶ Make subject/verb agree in number.