

How to Write an Editorial

What is an editorial:

An editorial is one of the writing styles used to express an opinion or reaction to timely news, events or an issue of concern. Most editorials are used to influence readers to think or act the same way the writer does.

Not all editorials take sides on an issue but have one of the following four purposes:

1. **Inform:** The writer gives careful explanations about a complicated issue.
2. **Promote:** Writer tries to promote a worthy activity. Get the reader involved.
3. **Praise:** The writer praises a person or an event.
4. **Entertain:** The writer encourages or entertains the reader about an important issue.

Steps to writing your editorial:

Selecting: Choose an issue ~ Your editorial could be about how the readers could help the environment, inform the public about a particular endangered species, praise an effort by a group who has helped to take an endangered animal off of the endangered species list, or any other idea that can be used as an editorial. First check with your teacher to make sure it is an acceptable article.

Collecting: Gathering Support ~ Gather as many details to convince others about your opinion (use Cornell Notes). (Facts or evidence, written statements from sources or authorities in the subject (experts), comparisons to similar situations to support your argument, pictures or images that strengthen your argument, be able to counter argue your opponents on this issue.)

Connecting: Remember to brainstorm before you write the first draft ~ Body should have clear and accurate details and examples. Give strong arguments in beginning of editorial and at the end. Show the opposing arguments and their weaknesses (paragraph 2). Offer a solution at the end. Do not be wishy washy. Stick to your argument or opinion.

Correcting: Getting it right ~ Your editorial should be clear and forceful. Avoid attacking others, do not preach, paragraphs should be brief and direct. Give examples and illustrations (quotes give strength). Be honest and accurate.

Sample of what could go into the five paragraph editorial:

1. a personal experience, the thesis statement
2. explanation of the other side of the issue
3. examples to support your point of view
4. reasons for your point of view
5. the last paragraph should restate your thesis statement and end on a positive note

Main Idea Web

Paragraph 1

Introduction (It grabs the reader's attention, sets a purpose for writing, and states the main idea of the essay.)

Paragraph 2 Topic Sentence

Paragraph 3 Topic Sentence

Paragraph 4 Topic Sentence

Supporting Details

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Supporting Details

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Supporting Details

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Paragraph 5

Conclusion (It wraps up the essay and repeats the main idea of the passage.)