

Assignment Type: Op-Ed

What is it

OpEd, short for Opposite the Editorial, is a newspaper opinion piece from contributors not affiliated with the editorial board. Limited in most newspapers to 700 to 1200 words, writing and getting published is no easy task. Yet, an Op-Ed is the type of real-world writing skill students need to flourish in the 21st century.

Why use it

The purpose of an Op-Ed is to sway public opinion and change minds using convincing argument and presenting it in a concise, readable way. An Op-Ed is a demanding assignment and would be relevant to many courses. An Op-Ed is an assignment that mirrors “real world” applications outside the classroom. A submission must be well written and polished in order to be published in newspapers.

How to use it

An OpEd makes an excellent assignment that replaces an essay. Use an Op-Ed for assignments where you would normally ask the student to argue their opinion backed up by facts. Provide instructions on how to create an Op-Ed, available on the teaching website. Consider using peer review for Op-Eds as a panel of editors are usually the ones to decide the fate of Op-Eds submitted to their newspapers. By critiquing their peer’s Op-Eds, students can often see the flaws in their own.

Guidelines for writing an OpEd

Any kind of content that should be reflected upon, analyzed critically, or that needs to be integrated with other knowledge is appropriate for an OpEd assignment. OpEds offer a means to expand the student’s writing and communication skills to new platforms. They can also be used as a vehicle for stating and defending positions, organizing and presenting sets of information, or providing examples of content in action.

Level of Bloom's Taxonomy: Sample Learning Objectives

OpEd assignments can be constructed to assess accomplishment of learning outcomes at any level of the cognitive domain on Bloom's Taxonomy. Here are a few examples of objectives from different levels of Bloom's that can be assessed with an OpEd:

- Defend your position on the budget crisis.
- Explain your thoughts on the usage of innovative technologies in higher education.

Resources

Information on Creating Op-Eds

- [What is an Op-Ed Article and How to Write One](#)
- [Writing Opinion Articles in 5 Easy Steps](#)
- [New York Times Instructions of Op-Eds](#)

Examples of OpEds

Finding examples is easy. Search any large newspaper, and many local ones. If you have ever had an OpEd published, that is a good place to start.

- [Betrayed by Obama – OpEd Example](#)
- [Why the Internet Should Win the Nobel Peace Prize](#)