

ENG4U - Opinion Editorial (“Op-Ed”) Writing and Analysis Assignment

Task: You will write an opinion essay where you explore a topic that is of particular interest to you. Like all opinion essays, your essay must include a variety of information sources, including, but not limited to, personal experiences, statistics, studies, definitions, real world allusions, etc. As a result, you must conduct thorough research and collect relevant information prior to writing your essay.

When you are finished your opinion essay, you will write a report where you justify and support your choice of thesis, tone, literary and/or rhetorical devices, intended audience, and style of organization. All responses must be supported with a close analysis of relevant quotes from your op-ed.

Step 1: Decide on your topic. Collect research to ensure that your opinion essay can be supported by third party facts and details, not simply personal experiences. Have your topic approved by your teacher no later than: _____

Step 2: Consider how you will argue your thesis. Complete the attached sheet to help plan your essay before you begin. This chart will be submitted along with your final, good copy.

Step 3: Write your opinion essay, combining the research from “Step 1” and your planning from “Step 2”

Step 4: Write a report outlining your choice of:

1. Thesis
2. Tone
3. Literary and/or rhetorical devices
4. Intended audience
5. Style of organization
6. Any other stylistic elements that you chose that will add to your analysis or explanation (i.e title, point of view, etc.)

Be sure to review the expectations set out during the non-fiction unit with regards to what constitutes a level 3 response. Each response must be supported with specific quotations from your essay.

Please note:

- Each element should be explored in a series of paragraphs, using proper paragraph structure (PPC).
- You should be using specific terms, words, phrases from your op ed to support your arguments. Try to avoid using whole sentences if they are not needed, but rather embed key ideas into your own explanation.
- After each supporting quotation, you need to thoroughly explain how and why you chose to use that technique (tone, these, literary device, etc.). Failure to explain your rationale will negatively affect your grade.

For your final submission, you must include:

- 1) Evidence of all of your research documents. Please ensure that you have highlighted within each document what information you used in your opinion essay (this may be shared digitally).
- 2) The completed planning chart from “Step 2.”
- 3) A hard copy of your opinion essay.
- 4) A hard copy of your report where you justify your choices, as outlined in “Step 4.”

All four final products are due at the beginning of class on _____.

Reading and Literature Studies

READING FOR MEANING				
Look Fors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>The student accurately identifies their central argument with a supporting quote.</p> <p>The student can explain and support how the argument is central by linking their idea to multiple pieces of supporting evidence from throughout the essay.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Insightful
<p>The student effectively targets numerous aspects of their target audience through the use of a variety of techniques, including content, diction, publishing information etc. and can explain how and why they chose to target that specific group.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Thorough

UNDERSTANDING FORM AND STYLE				
Look Fors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>The student can effectively explain why they chose a specific style of essay and how it relates to their purpose, content, organization, thesis, and rhetorical elements. The student uses specific quotes from the text to support their choice.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Thorough
<p>The student accurately and effectively uses a variety of rhetorical and/or literary devices and explains how each device helps the reader to better understand the thesis. The student supports their explanation with direct evidence from the text.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Thorough
<p>The student chooses an effective tone that relates to the content and purpose of the essay. The student supports their thinking through an analysis of the author's style (diction), using direct evidence from the text.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Thorough

Writing

DEVELOPING AND ORGANIZING CONTENT				
Look Fors	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
<p>The student can effectively explain why they chose a specific style of essay and how it relates to their purpose, content, organization, thesis, and rhetorical elements. The student uses specific quotes from the text to support their choice.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Insightful
<p>The choice of organization is effective given the subject matter and consistent throughout the essay</p>				
<p>The student uses a variety of sources (websites, academic journals, studies, statistics) and integrates facts and details effectively throughout the essay.</p>	Limited	Some	Considerable	Thorough