

Rhetoric of the Op-Ed Page: Letter to the Editor
20 points - Summative Assessment
ERWC - Sanders - 2017

Here is your assignment: Write a letter to the editor (Rifkin or Braithwaite) stating your well-informed opinion on whether you agree or disagree (or both) with the author's major ideas. This letter should be formal which means you should follow all the rules of a formal letter (single spaced, paragraphs, etc.). In your writing, try to persuade the editor to see your point-of-view. Give three reasons why you feel the way you do and back up those reasons with solid supporting facts or examples. These do not have to be terribly long, but they have to be long enough to prove your point. See Activity 27, p.82, for the full assignment description.

Develop your points by giving reasons, examples, or both from your own experience, observations, and readings. You must cite at least TWO quotes from the text. Citations must be in MLA format. Be sure to include a separate Works Cited page. Additionally, this is your time to demonstrate your ability to persuade in three different ways (ethos, logos, and pathos). Your letter to the editor should be 200-300 words in length.

The four-point scoring guide for the Letter to the Editor assignment is available. (see Activity 41, p.90). Your final score on the rubric will be multiplied by five in the grade.

Letter to the Editor Structure

As you outline your first draft consider the structure you will use. Can it be made clearer or more effective?

As noted, some letters respond to the thesis of the editorial, either in support or disagreement, and provide further arguments or further evidence. Other letters focus on one point made by the original author and support it, question it, or refute it. A letter to the editor will probably have a beginning, middle, and end structuring. See Activity 36 (p.87) for further instruction.

Dates to Know:

Thursday 9/21 in class - *Gather evidence; choose editor to respond to*

Friday 9/22 *Compose a draft in class. Edit your drafts over the weekend.*

9/22-9/26 - *Complete the following activities as you make your revisions:*

(a) Activity 37 (p.88) using the words of others

(b) Activity 39: Revising Rhetorically (p.89)

(c) Activity 41: Editing Your Draft

(d) Activity 43 - Reflection due the day you turn in your letter. (p.92)

Friday 9/27 - *FINAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR IS DUE. Must include a Works Cited page, your rough draft with edits, and reflection (hard copy ONLY). Please put your final letter and accompanying material in a folder. Late work will be accepted at a 10% drop in letter grade per day.*