

## An Op/Ed Piece

Your assignment is to write a short op/ed piece – 600 to 800 words, no going over or under – suitable for publication in a popular publication. It can be on any topic at all. A common topic for folks like us is “Teaching xxx in the Age of AI,” but you are welcome to write about anything at all.

### An Op/Ed Piece?

You should produce a piece similar to what you might find in any newspaper or its website. Excellent examples can be found every day in the *San José Mercury News*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*, as well as more specialized publications like the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. An op/ed piece is a short, opinion-driven essay about some topic of interest to the publication’s readers. An op/ed piece can be written in the first or third person, depending on your goals for the piece.

### Sample Op/Ed Pieces (And Some Guidelines)

Op/ed pieces are published in newspapers and publications all the time. You can see some samples (and get some genre advice) here:

- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/>Links to an external site.
- <https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/op-ed-writing-guide-washington-post-examples/>Links to an external site.
- <https://www.nytimes.com/section/opinion/>Links to an external site.
- <https://www.mercurynews.com/opinion/>Links to an external site.
- <https://www.chronicle.com/tag/opinion/>Links to an external site.

### Teams

You are welcome to work on this project in teams of one or two. So if you want to write with a partner, give it a shot.

### Process for the Project

We will share ideas and give each other feedback and encouragement throughout the project.

#### *Explore The Genre*

Using the links provided above, as well as the handy Genre Analysis guide, we will explore the genre of the op/ed piece and see how it tends to be put together.

#### *Pitch Your Idea*

The second step in the process is to pitch your idea to the group. When you pitch your idea, please tell us the following:

- The basic idea. What it’s about and why is it timely and/or interesting?
- How you will do it. How you will research this idea and produce the piece.

We will give you feedback and suggestions for doing your project. We might even help you spontaneously form a team if you are interested.

#### *Write a Short Outline*

The third step in the process is to make plans and write up a short outline. Just a set of notes, really, that sketch out where you are going with the piece. We’ll give you some feedback, too.

### *Write a Draft*

The fourth step in the process is to write a draft of your piece and share it with the group. We'll give you some feedback, too.

### *Revise Your Draft*

The final step in the process is to revise your draft, using the feedback you received.

### **Using AI Throughout The Process**

You should use AI tools as much as possible throughout the writing process. As you use them, think about what they are good and helpful at doing, and what they aren't so good and helpful at doing.