

## Sample Op-Ed Outline

### I. Introduction

- a. Hook: The beginning is your chance to capture your reader's attention! What can you start with that will compel your audience to pay attention? Perhaps an anecdote or surprising fact?
- b. Context: Now back up a little bit. Explain what the issue is at hand. In a few lines, provide some background and context.
- c. Thesis: Finally, make an argument. Tell your reader where you stand on this issue.

### II. First body paragraph

- a. Evidence #1: Describe the central piece of evidence that supports your position.
- b. Tie Back: Make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.

### III. Second Body Paragraph

- a. Evidence #2: Describe a second piece of evidence that supports your position. Try using a different type of persuasion (see list below).
- b. Tie Back: Again, make sure to connect this evidence back to your main argument, explaining to readers how it supports your thesis statement.

### IV. Third Body Paragraph

- a. Counter Argument: What would be the main argument of the opposing side?
- b. Rebuttal: What is your response to this argument? Why doesn't it apply to this situation/context?

### V. Conclusion

- a. Summary: In just a few lines, remind your reader of the main argument and evidence.
- b. Thesis: No need to repeat your thesis word-for-word, but remind readers what you're arguing and why they should care!
- c. Personal Comment, Call to Action, or Question: The last few sentences of your essay will linger in your reader's mind? What do you want to leave them with?

## Try out different forms of persuasion!

Some readers might be convinced by hard facts and statistics. Others might be persuaded by an emotional anecdote, or a story from your own life. Writing a compelling op-ed often depends on looking at the topic from multiple angles—each perspective helping to solidify your argument, while also convincing readers to *listen up!* Here are some different strategies for you to try out as you craft your argument:

- Personal Experience: The writer describes an experience he or she has had.
- Expert Opinion: The writer draws on the opinion of an expert—someone trained in a particular area, or someone who has relevant personal experience.
- Example: The writer provides an example that supports a larger idea or pattern.
- Analogy: The writer compares the situation to another similar situation.
- Facts and Statistics: The writer uses facts or numbers to prove their idea. Often this information comes from other sources, such as books, newspapers, or websites.
- Logic: The writer uses reasoning or logic to argue their point.
- Emotion: The writer makes an emotional appeal to the reader.