**Writing Opinion Pieces**

**Editorial:** an [opinion piece](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Opinion_piece) written by the senior editorial staff or publisher of a [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper) or [magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine). Editorials are usually unsigned and may be supposed to reflect the opinion of the periodical.

**Op-Ed:** stands for “opposite the editorial page.” a [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper) article that expresses the opinions of a named [writer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writer) who is usually unaffiliated with the newspaper's [editorial board](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Editorial_board).

**Column:** A column is a recurring piece or article in a [newspaper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper), [magazine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine) or other publication. Columns are written by [columnists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Columnist).

What differentiates a column from other forms of [journalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journalism) is that it meets each of the following criteria:

* It is a regular feature in a publication
* It is personality-driven by the author
* It explicitly contains an opinion or point of view

**Letters to the Editor:** a [letter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Letter_%28message%29) sent to a [publication](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Publication) about issues of concern from its readers. Usually, letters are intended for publication. In many publications, letters to the editor may be sent either through [conventional mail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mail) or [electronic mail](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electronic_mail).

Fact **OR** Opinion?

"Suzanne was an emotionally strong woman who overcame many obstacles in her lifetime"

"Suzanne's bout with breast cancer did not stop her from pursuing her professional goals"

"Jose ran the Boston Marathon five times in as many years"

"Jose performed admirably as a member of the 2004 Olympic team in Athens"

“Mayor Temmel joined the armed forces at the age of nineteen.”

“John Cates decided that living in poverty was no longer an option.”

“Emily Roorburst is one of the bravest most inspiring dancers of our generation”

“Reggie Raider began his career as a filmmaker a decade after he was fired from the music industry”

“Ian Fisher just wanted to party like every other eighteen year-old who just graduated high school.”

“They were unable to escape the bunker because they were surrounded on all sides”

“Canyon City is one of the scariest places on earth”

“Too many prisoners are given freedom after a short sentence”

“Three in six men charged with first degree murder are sentenced to life in prison”

“The driving age is so low in a state like Colorado that many inexperienced drivers do not have the chance to learn”

“The Denver Zoo is home to sixteen species of frogs”

“A veterinarian works harder and longer than a normal M.D. because they have to know so much about so many different animals.”

“American high schools do not provide enough contact hours between student and teachers, and therefore are below average in test scores compared to other nations”

“The film *Looks like Baxter is at it again”* features 120 minutes of mind-numbing, soul-sucking bathroom humor”

“Prison is like being put in a box an buried underground”

**Writing an Op-Ed piece:**

Information (fact) + Opinion (personal views & problem/ solution)

**BRAINSTORMING:**

**1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-**

**2.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-**

**3.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-**