Writing an Op-Ed Piece

Requirements:

- 400-800 words, typed, (Copy submitted to teacher must be double-spaced, MLA format)

- Due Tuesday 9/6 at midnight

- You must choose an actual newspaper/journal to submit your piece to. See theopedproject.org for a list of possibilities. Identify the specific publication that you are submitting to on your piece.

- Clearly defined subject matter that engages reader with opening

- Distinct and plausible recommendations for action and change (failure to do this will result in a full grade level dock)

- Acknowledgment of opposing point of view

- Vibrant word choice reflective of personal voice and writer’s ethos.

According to *The Wall Street Journal*: Your article should be a strong argument about an issue in the news. It should not be a response to a Journal article; that is a letter to the editor. So this means that you should choose something about which you are passionate.

Please visit <http://www.theopedproject.org/> for further resources

According to Duke University:

- **Track the news and jump at opportunities.**

- **Make a single point — well.**

- **Put your main point on top.**

- **Tell readers why they should care.**

- **Offer specific recommendations.**

- **Showing is better than discussing.**

- **Embrace your personal voice.**

- **Play up your personal connection to the readers.**

- **Use short sentences and paragraphs.**

- **Avoid jargon.**

- **Use the active voice.**

- **Avoid tedious rebuttals.**

- **Acknowledge the other side.**

- **Make your ending a winner.**

- **Relax and have fun.**

- **Don’t worry about the headline.**

- **Offer graphics.**