

POL 310: Paper #3
Op-ed
Professor Enrique Quezada-Llanes
Due December 1st, 2023 at 5pm
Submit on Canvas

Purpose

The goal of this assignment is to help you apply concepts and findings from the course material to a current event of your interest in the area of religion and politics and to communicate your analysis and conclusions to a general audience.

Task

Write an op-ed for [The Profile](#) on a topic related to the course (no actual submission to the paper necessary). Your op-ed may address a current policy debate, news story, or political science finding you think would help you and your peers understand the role of religion in contemporary American politics. The op-ed should be between 600-1,200 words (single-spaced, 12-point font, 1-inch margins). Use Times New Roman or Arial font.

An op-ed is a short opinion piece intended for the general readership of a publication. Many academics write op-eds as a way to communicate their research to people outside their field that they believe could help illuminate an important political event.

In your op-ed, make sure to include at least two pieces of information (e.g., concepts, ideas, frameworks, contextual information) that you learned in class and found particularly helpful for your understanding of this topic to make your argument.

See below for more details about how to write an op-ed.

Criteria for success

A successful op-ed for this class will:

- Have an effective hook and a clear thesis statement.
- Identify at least two concepts/ideas/information from class.
- Provide persuasive evidence for the argument.
- Use clear and concise language (avoid jargon).

How to write an op-ed

While there is no single way to write an op-ed, the following structure may help you identify the different parts you need and a common way to organize them. This comes from [The OpEd Project](#), where you can find more information to guide you.

1. Lede and news hook
 - Grab your reader's attention using a recent news story that would be of interest to your audience
2. Thesis statement
3. Argument (with evidence; use many paragraphs)
 - 1st point (use evidence)
 - 2nd point (use evidence)
 - 3rd point (use evidence)
4. "To be sure" paragraph
 - Address potential criticism.
5. Conclusion
 - Connect your conclusion back to the lede.

You must bring a full draft to class on November 27th so that one of your peers can give you feedback in class.