

# op-ed

**“An op-ed is an opinion piece written by the reader of a newspaper, magazine, or other source, on a topic relevant to the publication’s audience.”**  
**-Duke Writing Studio**



**Length:** 750-1,200 words

**Draft Due Date:** November 21, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

**Final Due Date:** December 3, 2024 by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time

## **Purpose:**

Now that you have crafted an argument based on primary and secondary research, you will articulate a position in the form of an op-ed. To learn more about op-eds, click on the “Duke Writing Studio” link above. You can also read op-eds in *The New York Times*, which you have access to through Duke. The op-ed is the third and final entry in your Research Portfolio. The assignment engages you in the creation of public scholarship (academic work communicated to a wider audience), moving between registers of language and writing styles. The assignment, then, responds to the following course goals:

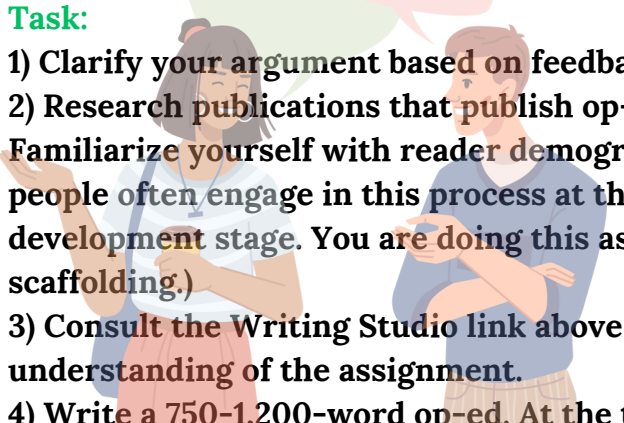
- 1) engage with the work of others
- 2) articulate a position
- 3) situate writing for specific audiences
- 4) transfer writing knowledge into situations beyond WRT 101.

## **Audience:**

You should choose a publication that includes op-eds and envision your audience as the reader of that publication. You should do some basic research, then, into reader demographics.

## **Task:**

- 1) Clarify your argument based on feedback given on your Statement of Findings.
- 2) Research publications that publish op-eds and would be receptive to your topic. Familiarize yourself with reader demographics (Note: In authentic writing situations, people often engage in this process at the start of their research or in the idea development stage. You are doing this as your last step for the sake of educational scaffolding.)
- 3) Consult the Writing Studio link above and look at additional materials to increase your understanding of the assignment.
- 4) Write a 750-1,200-word op-ed. At the top of your op-ed, please write the name of the publication and the audience demographics (not part of the word count).



### Evaluation Criteria:

- Presence of a clear position supported by credible evidence.
- Diction and style decisions appropriate to the audience
- Adherence to the genre conventions of an op-ed, such as word limit, diction, and syntax.
- Inclusion of all parts of the assignment

# REMEMBER

- We have a drafting workshop for this assignment on Tuesday, November 19.
- You may choose this assignment (or the Annotated Bibliography or the Statement of Findings) to discuss in small-group conferences, held November 12-14.
- Book your Writing Studio appointment(s) in advance.

