



How to...



LOTS TO READ
There are more than 5,000 weekly newspapers printed in the US.

Try writing an editorial

One way to take a stand is to share your opinion through a written article.

If you feel strongly about an issue, writing an editorial is one way to express your opinion. People write editorials to explain the reason they feel the way they do and to encourage others to think more deeply about an issue. In newspapers, editorials run in a section that is separate from the news sections to distinguish opinion from reported stories. Here's how to get started.

Choose a topic

Your topic could be your opinion about something that's happening in your school or community. Or it could be a way for you to comment on current events happening in the US or around the world. For example, you may have an opinion about proposed changes to your school's playground or you may want to share your thoughts on climate change. If you don't have an idea in mind, make a list of topics that are important to you. Read through *The Week Junior* to see if a story makes you feel passionately about a news event.

Start writing

An important part of your editorial is the title or "headline," as it's called in journalism. It should catch the attention of readers so they will want to stop and read what you have to say. Next, write your introduction paragraph. It should state what you're

writing about, why it's important, and what your opinion is. In the following paragraphs, you'll want to give examples that support your opinion, such as a news story, a study, or a report. Each example can be its own paragraph. As you write, focus on showing why it's important to care about this issue.

Share personal experiences

When writing your editorial, it's OK to share your own experience. One of the examples that support the opinion you give in your introduction paragraph could be a story from your life. By recounting a personal experience, you'll help readers understand where you're coming from, and you may inspire them to want to take a stand as well.



Brainstorm ideas first.

End on a strong note

After you have made your supporting points, finish with a paragraph that states your conclusion. This should be a call to action for your readers, such as, "We must act now." Give readers steps they can take to help support your cause or opinion. Once you're happy with your editorial, you could start by sharing it with your family or a teacher. If you have a school newspaper, find out if it accepts student editorials. You could also ask an adult if they could help you submit your editorial to a local newspaper that publishes opinion articles.

4 other activities you might enjoy

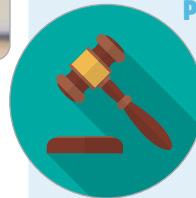
If you liked writing an editorial, here are some other ways to share your opinion and take a stand.

Be part of a debate team

At a debate competition, teams from different schools or clubs present their arguments for and against important issues they are assigned to speak about.



Participate in a mock trial



Some schools have mock trial clubs, which teach students what a

real trial is like. You and your teammates get the details of a case and are assigned to argue one side or the other in a competition.

Run for office

If your school has a student government or council, you could run for office or ask to attend meetings. At the meetings, you might be able to express your opinion about issues under discussion in the school.



Practice being a lawmaker



Clubs that are called Model Congress or Model United Nations

offer young people the chance to work together to solve challenges the country is facing as if they were US lawmakers or UN delegates.