

Editorial Essay Activity

Type: Major
Revision: October 5, 2009
Due: October 6, 2009

Rationale:

1. Pick a significant topic that has a current news angle or is relevant to you as a human and that would interest readers.
2. Collect information and facts; because you're going to begin with an objective (not choosing sides) identification of the issue, you will have to do some research to discover *facts and expert opinions that both support and refute your own opinions*
3. Explain the issue objectively as a reporter would and tell why this situation is important
4. State your opinion briefly in the fashion of a thesis statement - this is the editorial's PROPOSITION
5. Give opposing viewpoint first with its quotations and facts; you do this only so that you can refute (reject) the other side and develop your case using your own facts, details, figures, quotations. Pick apart the other side's logic. By acknowledging the opposition – they must have some good points you can acknowledge that would make you look rational - shows that you are willing to accept other viewpoints.
6. Repeat key phrases to reinforce an idea into the reader's minds - just do it creatively.
7. *Appeal to the logic and emotions of the reader by using loaded words/phrases and rhetorical devices - remember, you are trying to get your reader to agree with you.*
8. Give a realistic solution(s) to the problem that goes beyond common knowledge. Encourage critical thinking and pro-active reaction.
9. Wrap it up in a concluding punch that restates your opening remark (thesis statement) in different but inspiring words.
10. Keep it to 500 words; make every word count; never use "I"

The Simple Stuff:

1. 500 - 600 words maximum
2. 2 expert opinions (minimum)
3. must be properly cited (using properly-formatted in-text citations)
4. must include a References page(referenced using Citation Machine)
5. informal cover page
6. double-space
7. each student must provide an e-copy to iecoffin@edu.pe.ca
8. editorials will be submitted to the Guardian. Any published editorials receive automatic 100%.