

Student Handout 12- Editorial Guidelines and Rubric

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

- Newspaper editorial pages contain opinion articles written about specific topics or events that often affect the general public.
- Editorial writers hope to influence the readers to either get involved with a particular cause or help correct a social problem.
- Editorials often have titles that give the readers an indication of the topic discussed in the piece.
- The editorial writer provides his or her opinion in the third person. The goal of an editorial is to persuade the readers to support the writer's point of view on the topic.

Category	4	3	2	1
Title/Overall Message	Clearly focused on topic and clearly written.	Focused on topic with some minor flaws.	Needs to be more focused on the topic.	No clear connection to topic at hand.
Persuasive Argument	Logical progression of information and ideas. A strong argument for the writer's point of view with a clear message to the reader.	Logical progression of information and ideas throughout most of the editorial. The reader has some indication of the point of view of the writer.	Limited logical progression of ideas, opinion and ideas. The reader must make some assumptions about the writer's point of view.	No logical progression of information, opinion or ideas. The writer provides no indication of his or her point of view.
Use of primary source documents and class discussion	Well researched topic with strong connections to the primary source documents. Writer includes relevant information discussed in class.	Adequately researched topic with some connections to the primary source documents. Writer includes some relevant information discussed in class.	Limited research of the topic with weak connections to the primary source documents. Writer includes little to no relevant information discussed in class.	No research of the topic and no real connections to the primary source documents. Writer includes no relevant information discussed in class.
Writing Mechanics	The editorial is well written in paragraph form and is free from spelling and/or grammatical errors.	The editorial is written in paragraph form and has a few insignificant spelling and/or grammatical errors.	The editorial is written in paragraph form and contains several spelling and grammatical errors.	The editorial is poorly written and is not in paragraph form. It contains significant spelling and grammatical errors.

Total Points/Grade: _____