

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Guide to Persuasive Writing Activity Sheet

## Part 1: What Makes a Great Editorial?

**Directions:** Think carefully about the information that was presented in the editorial your teacher read, and use that information to answer each question below.

1. The sample editorial contains the type of information traditionally found in editorial writing. Below you will see the main parts of an editorial listed. Using the sample editorial, describe the content for each main part below.

Opinion that was stated:

Reasons stated to support this opinion:

Facts that support this opinion:

Author's suggestions for dealing with the topic of the editorial:

2. What is the writer's purpose in an editorial?
3. What form of writing is used when someone writes an editorial?
4. What types of topics should be selected when one decides to write an editorial?
5. Discuss the role of research and the presentation of facts in an effective editorial.

6. Before writing an editorial, why is it important to create a list of arguments that both support your point of view as well as those that differ from your point of view? How will doing this help you to construct a stronger editorial?

## **Part 2: Creating Your Own Editorial**

You have seen examples of persuasive writing done in the form of an editorial and have written a paper based on NOW content. Now it's your turn to conceive and create an editorial of your own. Follow the steps below to help you organize your thoughts before writing.

### **Step 1:**

Select an appropriate topic about which you can form an opinion. Be sure to choose a topic you are interested in and that can be researched so you can find facts and examples to support your opinions. It's best to choose a topic you already feel strongly about.

### **Step 2:**

Utilize the NOW Online topic search feature available at [http://www.pbs.org/now/topic\\_search/index.html](http://www.pbs.org/now/topic_search/index.html) as well as other resources to gather research for your editorial. Record specific facts, examples, quotes, etc. carefully on paper, noting relevant information about the resource used. Pay attention to the information provided on the websites and periodicals you use for your research to ensure that you are using reliable resources.

### **Step 3:**

Make a list of arguments that support your opinion and those that contradict it. That way you will be able to address differing points of view in your essay.

### **Step 4:**

Develop your editorial. Pay particular attention to key information you will place in each part of the editorial. Keep in mind your newspaper's specific guidelines for publishing editorials. In the spaces below, briefly summarize what you will include in each paragraph.

Part 1: State your opinion and develop a good opening "hook" to grab the reader's interest

Part 2: Introduce arguments that support your opinion and document them with supporting reasons, facts, examples, and details

Part 3: Address strong counterarguments to your point of view and rebut them using reasons, facts and examples.

Part 4: Offer your specific suggestions for what can be done to deal with the topic you have chosen for your editorial.

Part 5: Summarize your opinion and supporting arguments and leave the reader with a powerful closing statement about why they should agree with your point of view

**Step 5:**

Construct a rough draft of your editorial. Be sure to note your sources when citing facts, examples, quotes, etc.

**Step 6:**

Read over your work and make revisions. Reading aloud will help you to hear areas that don't flow smoothly or make sense. Your main goal during revision is to evaluate the content of your editorial. Be sure to use a variety of precise word choices and sentence structures to make your editorial interesting for the reader.

**Step 7:**

Careful editing is critical to the success of your editorial. Take time to carefully check all spelling, grammar, usage, punctuation, and capitalization and make the necessary corrections.

**Step 8:**

Complete the final copy of your editorial. Be prepared to share it with classmates and receive feedback from them about the content and structure of your editorial.

**Step 9:**

Submit your editorial to your local newspaper for publication. Many local papers include submission information. If not, contact the editor. The piece can be a full editorial or letter-to-the-editor.