

Editorial Writing



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Editorial

An article that states the newspaper's stance on a particular issue. Basically, it is a persuasive essay that offers a solution to a problem.

**Intro:
Present the
problem or
situation.**

Take a stand!

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted.



Reason #1 for position

Reason #2 for position

Reason #3 for position

Evidence for all 3 points.



**Present
a logical
solution.**

**Recap
the staff
stance.**

Our SITUATION ...

Leaguetown High School has 1,800 students enrolled in grades 9-12. For the past 20 years, the high school has had spirit weeks to celebrate fall and spring athletics. The fall spirit week was Sept. 12-16 and the spring spirit week was set for Feb. 13-17. During those weeks, the Student Council devise different dress-up themes for each day. For example during the fall spirit week, students were supposed to “Wake Up the Competition” by wearing their pajamas to school and “Rock the Competition” by dressing up like rock stars. This week Principal Nigel Smythe announced that the school will no longer have themed dress-up days during spirit weeks, citing students wore “too much inappropriate clothing.” Last semester, in the fall spirit week alone, there were more than 100 dress code violations. Several organizations, including the PTA, the Student Council and the football booster club, asked the school board to intervene and rescind Smythe’s mandate.

The school board will meet Tuesday, Feb. 7, to decide whether it will intervene. The next issue of the *Press* will be distributed Monday, Feb. 6.

The HEAD of our Editorial

For example:

In response to more than 100 dress code violations during spirit week dress-up days last semester, Principal Nigel Smythe eliminated the spring dress-up days. Several organizations, including the PTA, the Student Council and the football booster club, asked the school board to override Smythe's decision. The board meets Tuesday, Feb. 7.

**Intro:
Present the
problem or
situation.**

The NECK of our Editorial

For example:

The board should ignore the request and honor Smythe's decision.

OR (the other side)

The board should throw its support behind these organizations and override Smythe's decision.

Take a stand!

What is your opinion???

Pick a side. Stick with it.

The BODY of our Editorial

Give three reasons why you are taking your stand. If we supported it ...

1. Dress-up days are a privilege, and students proved they weren't ready for that privilege by abusing it.
2. When students make poor choices, it's the administration who spend hours dealing with the issue instead of doing tasks that could impact the entire school for the good.
3. Students were warned that their poor choices could result in dress-up days being cancelled. Actions have consequences.

Reason #1 for position

Reason #2 for position

Reason #3 for position

The BODY of our Editorial

Give three reasons why you are taking your stand. If we opposed it ...

1. Less than 10 percent of students broke the dress code during dress-up days in the fall.
2. The dress-up days are a huge part of spirit week.
3. Smythe did not try any other solution before announcing the elimination of dress-up days.

Reason #1 for position

Reason #2 for position

Reason #3 for position

An ARM of our Editorial

Support your arguments with evidence and examples. Your English teachers call this elaboration.

Less than 10 percent of students broke the dress code during dress-up days in the fall. That number does not warrant banning dress-up days altogether. It is not fair to punish all students for a few students' bad judgement.

Evidence for all 3 points

The other ARM of our Editorial

**Opposing viewpoints are rebutted. You
shut down the opposition.**

Proponents of Smythe's plan say eliminating dress-up day does not kill spirit week, but it does kill the the activity with the most participation. It might not kill spirit week, but it certainly wounds it.

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted

The LEGs of our editorial

If you are going to complain about something, you must have a better way of doing it.

The board needs to step in and show its support. It should override Smythe's decision to keep the school united and spirited.

**Recap
the staff
stance.**

**Present
a logical
solution.**
(Call to action)

What went wrong?

- You didn't take a stand. (There are both positives and negatives to this new proposal.)
- The argument was trite and generalized. Be specific to the situation. (School spirit is important. Every student needs school spirit.)
- You asked too many rhetorical questions without stating an opinion. (Why does the principal want to kill school spirit? What is his problem?)
- You used quotes. You don't need any.



What went wrong?

- The wording was pompous or pretentious. (Young scholarly persons habitually necessitate an uplifting of their inner essence to celebrate the establishment and its compatriots. The nimble leader of the edifice concluded that this uplifting should be terminated.)
- You turned into a preacher. (Spirit is what everyone needs.)
- You got off topic. (School spirit is important to athletics. Our football and basketball team need improvement. The teams only won two games each last year.)
- Your argument lacked credibility. (Everyone must participate in spirit days.)
- You used stereotypes or made personal attacks. (The principal is stupid for making this decision.)



What went wrong?

After multiple dress code infractions last semester during spirit week, Principal Nigel Smythe has abolished the dress-up days from spirit week. Several organizations, including the PTA and the Student Council, have asked the school board to bring dress-up days back to spirit week.

Both Smythe and those organizations have some good points.

Less than 10 percent of students broke the dress code during dress-up days in the fall. That number does not warrant banning dress-up days altogether. It is not fair to punish all students for a few students' bad judgement.

On the other hand, dress-up days are a privilege, and students proved they weren't ready for that privilege by abusing it. Last semester for spirit week, students showed up in inappropriate nighties and excessively torn clothing that was clearly out of dress code. Students know the dress code. The Student Council even addressed what was appropriate for dress-up days, and yet many students deliberately chose to break dress code.

What went wrong?

After multiple dress code infractions last semester during spirit week, Principal Nigel Smythe has abolished the dress-up days from spirit week. Several organizations, including the PTA and the Student Council, have asked the school board to bring dress-up days back to spirit week.

When the board meets tomorrow, it should throw its support behind these organizations and override Smythe's decision.

Less than 10 percent of students broke the dress code during dress-up days in the fall. That number does not warrant banning dress-up days altogether. It is not fair to punish all students for a few students' bad judgement. From time to time, students are going to make bad choices. That's a part of growing up. Some students may one day skip a class or cheat. They might even get into a fight. Bad choices don't equal bad students, though.

What went wrong?

Starting at the dawn of each new year, intellectual institutions have instituted governing procedures to escalate youthful merriment to enhance and celebrate the athletic prowess.

At present, the high authority of this institution has put forth a mandate that would compel the organization that shapes such happenings to halt the customary spirited traditions.

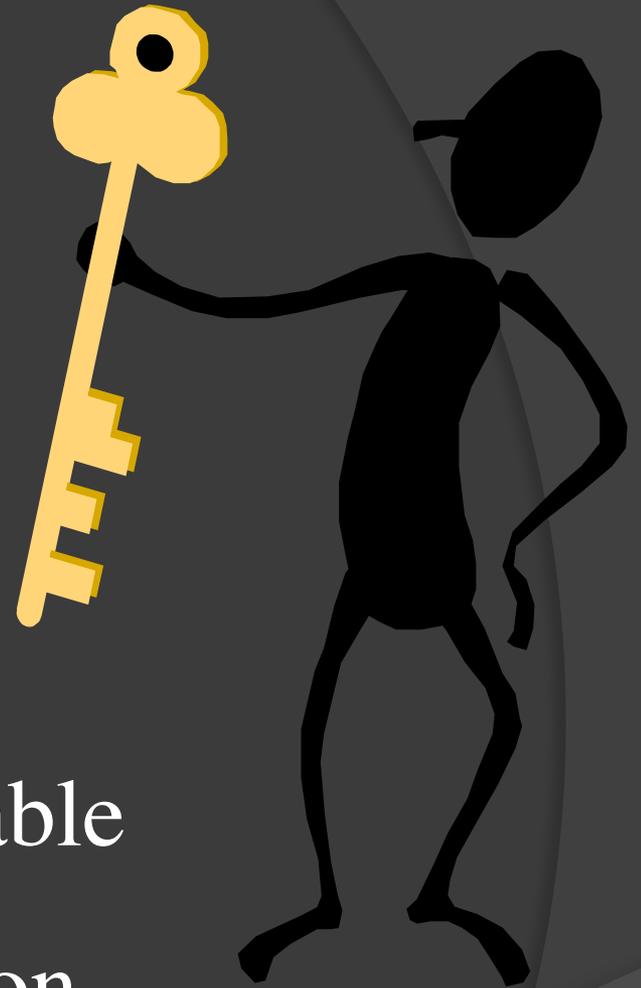
Remember the key to a successful Editorial ...

- Use the time element
- Provide strong evidence to support your stance
- Write in third person (some first person plural)



Remember the key to a successful Editorial ...

- Use active voice
- Be mature, fair and reasonable
- Offer a solution/call to action



On contest day ...

- Read the entire prompt
- Decide on a stance
- Using the prompt, write three supportive statements
- Highlight elaboration for your statements in the prompt
- Write

Time to work!!

- Divide the room in two.
- One side is for. One side is against.
- With your group, read the prompt and write a sentence stating your stance.
- Write three statements supporting your stance.

