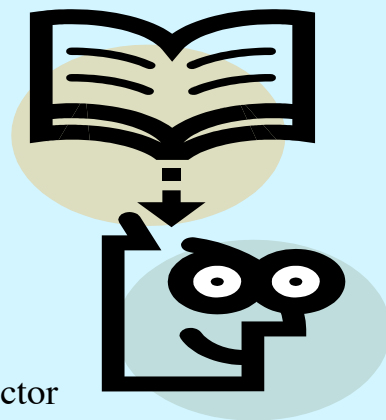


Editorial Writing



By Jeanne Acton, UIL/ILPC Journalism Director

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.

Editorial Writing

**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



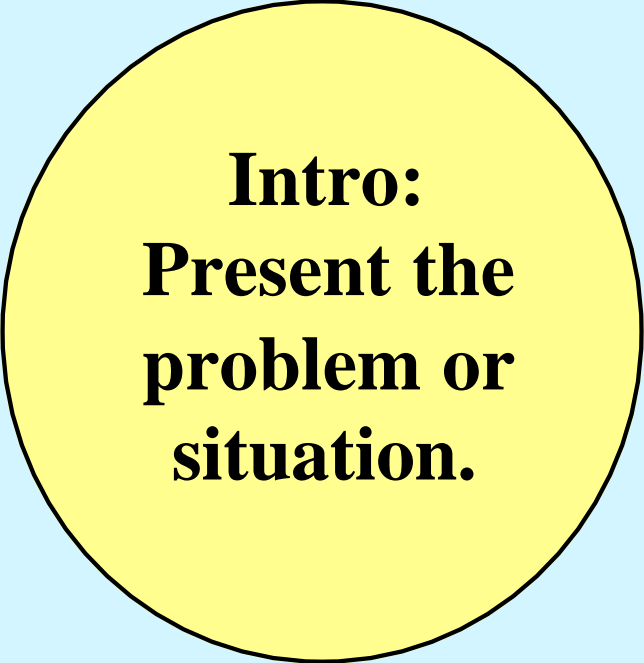
**Present
a logical
solution.**

**Recap
the staff
stance.**

The HEAD of our Editorial

For example:

After working with teachers, administrators and parents, the school board adopted a new, more rigid dress code for high school students for next school year. The administration said it wanted students to dress more professionally. According to the new policy, students will not be allowed to wear flip flops or shorts to school next year.



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

The NECK of our Editorial

What is your opinion???

For example:

The new dress code is too restrictive and is not necessary for our school. Students dress appropriately and do not need to be turned into mini-adults in business suits.

Take a stand!

The BODY of our Editorial

Give three reasons why you are taking your stand.

- 1) The new dress code limits individuality.
- 2) Students should be not be expected to dress like adults.
- 3) It is an issue of economics. Flip flops and shorts are cheaper than jeans and tennis shoes.

Reason #1 for position

Reason #2 for position

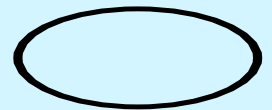
Reason #3 for position

An ARM of our Editorial

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

The new dress code limits individuality. High school students define themselves by what they wear. They express themselves through their clothing. A strict dress code will force students to hide their identity and make conformist out of the whole school. Part of the spirit of our school is the differences that we have with each other.

Evidence for all 3 points

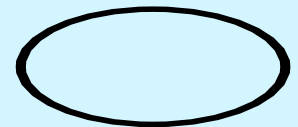


The other ARM of our editorial

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted. You shut down the opposition.

The administration says they created the new dress code because they wanted students to look professional. This is absurd. Students are not professionals yet. Students are just students and should be allowed to dress that way. When we graduate from high school and college, it will be important that we dress professionally, but it makes no sense for a 15-year-old student to wear a business suit to a science class.

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted



One LEG of our editorial

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

If the school wants students prepared for life after high school, a rigid dress code is not the way to go. Just dressing professionally doesn't guarantee success. Good grades, good test scores and a good resumé is what will make a student successful. The school needs to focus on college preparatory classes and SAT prep classes instead of a dress code.

**Present
a logical
solution.**

The other LEG of our editorial

The school does not need a dress code. Instead the school should focus on real issues that will help students be prepared for life after high school.

**Recap
the staff
stance.**

What went wrong?

- You didn't take a stand.
- The argument was trite and generalized.
- You asked too many rhetorical questions without stating an opinion.
- You used quotes. One quote (maybe two) is enough for an editorial. You don't need any.



What went wrong?

- The wording was pompous or pretentious.
- You turned into a preacher.
- You got off topic.
- Your argument lacked credibility.
- You used stereotypes or made personal attacks.



Remember the key to a successful

Editorial

- Make the lead interesting to grab the reader
- Provide strong evidence to support your stance
- Use active voice
- Be mature, fair and reasonable
- Offer a solution
- Write in third person most of the time (some 1st person plural)

