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!

Reason #1 for position

Reason #2 for position

Reason #3 for position

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted.

Evidence for all 3 points.

Present a logical solution.

Recap the staff stance.

Recap the staff stance.
Leaguetown High School, located in Texas, has 1,500 students enrolled in grades 9-12. Cheerleader tryouts are set for Friday, May 15. The team will consist of 12 varsity cheerleaders and 10 junior varsity cheerleaders. To qualify for tryouts, a candidate must maintain a 2.5 grade point average, have no in-school or out-of-school suspensions and provide two teacher recommendations. In the past, all qualified candidates tried out during a student assembly. Then, students would return to class and vote. Cheerleaders were elected for one school year.

This year, cheerleader sponsor Tiffanie Cantrell proposed that candidates tryout in front of three judges, who would select both teams. Students would not vote. The judges would be Cantrell, former Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Morgan Murphy and local choreographer Fritz Campbell. For the tryouts, all candidates would perform an individual cheer and two-minute dance, along with participating together in one large group cheer. Candidates would be judged on projection, presentation, tumbling, motions and dance.

Several parents and students have complained about the proposal to Principal Reginald Crosby. Crosby said he will make a decision by Friday, April 17, so candidates will have time to apply and prepare. You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Monday, April 13.
Intro:
Present the problem or situation.

For example:

With cheerleader tryouts just around the corner, the sponsor has proposed a new tryout structure in which candidates would perform for three judges who would make all selections. Students would no longer have a vote. Several parents and students oppose the proposal, and Principal Reginald Crosby will make a decision by this Friday.
The NECK of our Editorial

For example:

Crosby should accept the proposal.

OR (the other side)

Crosby should reject the proposal.

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 opposed it …

1. Cheerleaders are the spirit leaders of the school, and the student body should have a say in who its leaders are.
2. If the sponsor wanted to change tryouts, she should have sought input from the booster club, the student body, the PTA and the cheerleaders themselves.
3. Plus, the new tryout system would not be focused on what cheerleading is truly about — spirit.
The BODY of our Editorial

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

1) Cheerleading tryouts have turned into a popularity contest.
2) Only about 15 percent of Texas schools hold tryouts solely based on student body vote.
3) At the national cheerleading competition last year, the squad didn’t even make it to the finals because many girls lacked the physical skill set to rise above the other squads.

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.

Cheerleading tryouts have turned into a popularity contest. Students simply vote for their friends or the most popular girls. They aren’t looking at the skills cheerleaders need. Non-biased adult judges can do that.
The other ARM of our Editorial

Opposing viewpoints are rebutted. You shut down the opposition.

Opponents of the proposal say cheerleaders need to be more than “spirit leaders” which means “popular.” Maybe. But just because someone is popular doesn’t mean they can get a crowd excited and motivated. Crowds get pumped up by stunts, gymnastics and jumps.
The LEGs of our editorial

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

Cheerleaders need to have technique and proficiency. This proposal allows this, which will in turn make the squad better. A better squad will create more school spirit. All in favor of this proposal, including Crosby, should stand up and holler.
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 needs to improve. Students should cheer more for our sports.)

- You asked too many rhetorical questions without stating an opinion. (Why would anyone support this? What about the parents? What about the kids?)

- You used quotes. You don’t need any.
What went wrong?

- The wording was pompous or pretentious. (Young scholars habitually necessitate an uplifting of their inner essence so that they may illustrate their merriment to their associates.)

- You turned into a preacher. (School spirit is essential to a school. It must have it to survive.)

- You got off topic. (Cheerleading is an expensive sport. The outfits alone cost more than $400.)

- Your argument lacked credibility. (Instead of having cheerleader tryouts, the school should just allow any student who wants to be a cheerleader, be a cheerleader.)

- You used stereotypes or made personal attacks. (The cheerleader sponsor is stupid for suggesting this program.)
With cheerleader tryouts just around the corner, sponsor Tiffanie Cantrell has proposed a new more effective tryout structure in which candidates would perform for three judges who would make all selections. Students would no longer have a vote. Several parents and students oppose the proposal, and Principal Reginald Crosby will hand down a decision by this Friday.

This proposal is good but has a few drawbacks.

Cheerleading tryouts have turned into a popularity contest. Students simply vote for their friends or the most popular girls. They aren’t looking at the skills cheerleaders need. Non-biased adult judges can do that.

But cheerleaders are the spirit leaders of the school, and the student body should have a say in who its leaders are. Students should have input because cheerleaders are the ones who pump students up during school events. Students know who would be good motivators, who has the energy to move a crowd. A judging panel of three does not.
With cheerleader tryouts just around the corner, sponsor Tiffanie Cantrell has proposed a new more effective tryout structure in which candidates would perform for three judges who would make all selections. Students would no longer have a vote. Several parents and students oppose the proposal, and Principal Reginald Crosby will hand down a decision by this Friday.

Crosby should accept the proposal.

Cheerleading tryouts have turned into a popularity contest. Students simply vote for their friends or the most popular girls. And usually the most popular girls are also the rich girls. This school is divided. The poor students only hang out with poor students. The rich students stay with the rich kids. The school needs to address this problem.
Starting at the dawn of each new year, scholarly institutions have assembled maidens to enhance the inner essence of the scholars within the establishment.

At present, the high authority of this institution has put forth a blueprint that will lead to the transformation of which maidens are designated as the life-force enhancers.

The highest authority should eradicate this blueprint for calamity. It will affect a plethora of maidens in a detrimental manner.
Remember the key to a successful Editorial …

- Think.
- 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
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.