

# 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, located in West Texas, has 900 students enrolled in grades 9-12. After each basketball game, Ron Oswald, the head boys' varsity coach, goes to half court, gets on his knees, bows his head and says a silent prayer. Most of the players join him for this prayer. In early February, Bryan Segal, the school district lawyer, attended a basketball game and witnessed the prayer. Fearing a potential lawsuit, Segal recommended to Superintendent Irene Negrete that she instruct the coach to discontinue the practice.

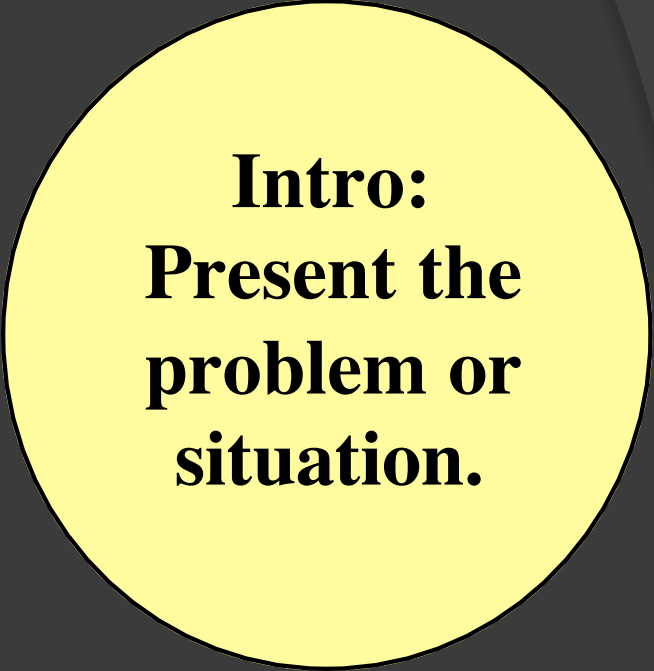
On Feb. 19, Negrete met with Oswald and explained that he must stop praying at half court or he would be removed as head coach. Oswald said he would take her directive under consideration. At the next and final game of the season, Oswald continued his usual practice of praying at half court. The next week, Negrete placed Oswald on suspension as head basketball coach until he signs a document that states he will no longer pray on the court after basketball games. Oswald has until April 11 to sign the document. If he does not sign it, he will be reassigned. Oswald can continue in his position as a history teacher if he refuses to sign the document, but he will not be allowed to coach any sports. The varsity, junior varsity and freshmen signed a letter of support for Oswald. The letter requests that Oswald's suspension be lifted without signing the document because he is "the best coach we've ever had."

You are writing for the issue of the Press to be distributed Friday, April 8.

# The HEAD of our Editorial

For example:

Fearing a potential lawsuit, Superintendent Irene Negrete banned head boys' basketball coach Ron Oswald from praying at half court after the basketball games. After the directive, Oswald prayed after the final game of the season and was suspended. He now has until April 11 to sign a document that states he will no longer pray on court or he will forfeit his coaching position.



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

# The NECK of our Editorial

For example:

Negrete should trash the document and reinstate Oswald.

**OR** (the other side)

Negrete is right, and Oswald should sign the document.

**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. In the past 10 years, three school districts have lost similar lawsuits.
2. The document is not forbidding Oswald from praying.
3. Although Oswald may not overtly pressure his athletes to pray with him, some may feel pressure to do so.

**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 supported it ...**

1. Coach Oswald is doing nothing wrong.
2. Not one person has complained.
3. The team and the school need Oswald.

**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.**

Coach Oswald is doing nothing wrong. In fact, he's doing everything right. He does not force players to pray with him after the game. He does not even encourage them. He prays silently, and he treats all of his players the same regardless of whether they pray or not. His players even attest to this.

Evidence for all 3 points

# The other ARM of our Editorial

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

Negrete says she's "protecting" students. From what? Positive coaching? The students need no protection from Oswald. He's not a predator. He's a man of great faith, a great mentor and a great role model.

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.**

Oswald is the foundation for the successful basketball program. If the district wants to continue this positive path, it needs to have a little faith and reinstate him immediately.

**Recap  
the staff  
stance.**

**Present  
a logical  
solution.**

# 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. (Prayer is important. Every student needs prayer in his or her life.)
- You asked too many rhetorical questions without stating an opinion. (What has he done wrong? Why is it wrong? Why is he being persecuted?)
- You used quotes. You don't need any.



# What went wrong?

- The wording was pompous or pretentious. (Young sports persons habitually necessitate an uplifting of their inner essence. The nimble leader of the spheroid squadron resolves that he, himself, is obligated to beseech his deity and yield his unrelenting gratitude.)
- You turned into a preacher. (Prayer is what everyone needs.)
- You got off topic. (Everyone should go to church and be grateful for what they have.)
- Your argument lacked credibility. (Everyone — both teams, all of the fans and coaches — should pray with Oswald.)
- You used stereotypes or made personal attacks. (The superintendent is stupid for making this decision.)



# What went wrong?

Fearing a potential lawsuit, Superintendent Irene Negrete forbade head boys' basketball coach Ron Oswald from praying at half court after the basketball games. After she ordered him to stop, Oswald prayed after the final game of the season. Negrete had no choice but to suspend him for his deliberate act of insubordination.

He now has until April 11 to sign a document that states he will no longer pray on court or he will lose his coaching position permanently.

Both Negrete and Oswald have made some very good points.

In the past 10 years, three school districts have lost similar lawsuits. The district lawyer and superintendent are trying to prevent a costly lawsuit and the bad press that would surely follow it.

The team and the school need Oswald. This year's team won the first district title since 1953. Oswald has made a positive impact on not only the basketball program but also on the players. They love him, and he loves them back. All three teams support his reinstatement without question.

# What went wrong?

Fearing a potential lawsuit, Superintendent Irene Negrete banned head boys' basketball coach Ron Oswald from praying at half court after the basketball games. After the directive, Oswald prayed after the final game of the season and was suspended. He now has until April 11 to sign a document that states he will no longer pray on court or he will forfeit his coaching position.

Negrete should trash the document and reinstate Oswald.

Coach Oswald is doing nothing wrong. In fact, he's doing everything right. Everyone needs to pray. It is what makes us whole. If more coaches prayed, we would probably have better athletes and more wins. In fact, the Leaguetown First Baptist Church is adding more services on Sunday and Wednesday night so everyone can attend church. The First Baptist Church is welcoming and the pastor is super nice.

# What went wrong?

Starting at the dawn of each new year, intellectual institutions have governed procedures to shield youthful scholars from boding tribulations.

At present, the high authority of this institution has put forth a mandate that would compel the instructor of the spherical gymnasium competition to halt his invocations following the customary spirited matches.



# 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.

