

Raising Your Voice: Resources

Rules on submitting opinion pieces

This site by The Oped Project contains links to web pages that outline dozens of publications' rules for submitting Letters to the Editor and op-eds:

<https://www.theopedproject.org/submissions>

The New York Times, which is highly selective, offers some advice:

Letters: <https://help.nytimes.com/115014925288-Submit-a-Letter-to-The-Editor>

Guest Essays (op-eds): <https://help.nytimes.com/115014809107-New-York-Times-Opinion-Guest-Essays>

The San Diego Union-Tribune gives rules for letters and op-eds (which they call Commentaries) here: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/letters-to-the-editor/>

Tip sheets

The Oped Project is an excellent resource, with both free and paid content, as well as workshops. It aims to increase publication of opinion pieces by women, especially women of color, but its materials are broadly applicable.

<https://www.theopedproject.org/resources>

NAEYC (Nat'l Assn for the Education of Young Children)

<https://www.naeyc.org/our-work/public-policy-advocacy/letter-editor-template>

Union of Concerned Scientists:

<https://www.ucs.org/resources/writing-effective-letter-editor>

AGU (American Geophysical Union)

https://www.agu.org/-/media/Files/Share-and-Advocate-for-Science/Toolkit_Writing_op-eds_and_LTEs.pdf

Books on effective writing

“On Writing Well: An Informal Guide to Writing Nonfiction” by William Zinsser

“Writing Tools: 50 Essential Strategies for Every Writer” by Roy Peter Clark

Examples mentioned in the Raising Your Voice workshop

Telling a story from an unusual perspective:

The gravedigger column: “It’s an Honor” by Jimmy Breslin, New York Herald Tribune, Nov. 26, 1963, about the man who dug President John F. Kennedy’s grave. Of all the hundreds of newspaper stories written that day, this is the only one that is still remembered.

<https://loa-shared.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/static/pdf/Breslin-Its-an-Honor.pdf>

This version begins with an introduction about the column:

<https://storyoftheweek.loa.org/2024/03/its-honor.html>

Writing as an expert on your own life:

“First-Generation, Low-Income College Students Face Acute Social Pressures at Elite Institutions” by Sofia Barnett, Teen Vogue Sept. 28, 2022 “

In this op-ed, a sophomore at Brown University shares the challenges of being a low-income student at an Ivy League school.”

<https://www.teenvogue.com/story/first-generation-low-income-college-students-ivy-league>

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