



Imaginative Op-ed Assignment

Submit an article of about 750 words, written from the perspective of someone living in the story of your choice

Steps

1. Choose an event from the book you're reading that is of particular interest to you, or that you'd like to analyze on a deeper level.
2. Compile contextual information on that event (using passages in the story) that will help to set the stage for your op-ed article. (Note: having a good understanding of the context surrounding the event of your choice will strengthen your writing.)
3. Outline the argument in your own words. Start with a strong thesis sentence that ties together the rest of your article. Find supporting evidence from the scene of your choice.
4. Think about who your audience will be. Think about the perspective from which you're writing. What issues will your op-ed address? Keep in mind that whoever/whatever topic you address, your writing should convey the perspective of someone from the story, not someone reading the story right now.
5. Create a draft of your article. Make sure to focus on the persuasiveness of the argument, at this point. Have someone read it. What questions did they have? Did they find it unclear? Is your piece convincing?
6. Fix the errors you encounter in Step 5 and focus on final touches (grammar, syntax, clarity).

Learning Goals:

- To think with a different perspective by imagining oneself in a fictional setting and writing from that perspective. If students can empathize with and understand the nuances of an argument, particularly one they may disagree with, they will be better skilled to debate and defend their position on the topic.
- To encourage students to be "public intellectuals" who are capable of sharing their work with the broader public.



Name:

Date:

Topic Proposal

1. Topic/story: _____

2. Briefly explain the position you're taking

3. List at least 3 pieces of "evidence" from the story that you will use to inform your position
