

## Opinion Piece

Is there something that you have a strong opinion about? Is there something that frustrates or irritates you? Is there something that you are passionate about? Are there political, social, economic or religious issues that you feel need to be addressed? Do you have ideas on how to solve these issues? If so, then this is the assignment for you.

Organize your opinions into an article (like the ones that we read) that will bring these issues to the attention of a particular audience.

### Steps

1. Fill out "Purpose and Audience: The Keys to Planning"
2. Fill out either "Using Graphic Organizers for Opinion-Support" or "Using Graphic Organizers for Problem-Solution"
3. Fill out "Writing Variables"
4. Type a draft of the article and bring to class on Tuesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> along with the previous three documents.
5. In-class peer review for ideas and organization.
6. In-class self-review for grammar and language use.
7. In-class self-review for spelling, capitalization and punctuation.
8. Take home essay for final edit.
9. Submit final copy on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Bonus 2% on total mark for those essays submitted to me for entry in the "Creative Communication" essay contest. Extension to Monday, the 21<sup>st</sup> for essay contest only.

Requirements: Typed, double spaced, 12 pt font, min.300 words, max 700.

Creative Communication [www.popeticpower.com](http://www.popeticpower.com)  
 ESSAY CONTEST RULES

1. Students must be in school (public, private or home school) in the United States or Canada.
2. Students can enter on their own or have a parent **or teacher** make their entry.
3. All entries must be in English and be the original work of the student.
4. Students can be in grades 3-12 for the essay contest.
5. Students can write on any appropriate subject (No pro-violence, pro drugs, etc)
6. Essays should be between 100 and 250 words (words such as "a", "an" or "the" are not counted) However, essays should not be over 300 words.
7. Essays must be non-fiction (no short stories or essays written as if you are a historical figure.)

**Opinion Piece Assessment** Name \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_/50

**Main Idea:** What is my issue/opinion?

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**Purpose:** What is the main purpose of this piece? To persuade, information, entertain about what?

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**Audience:** Who do I want to hear my opinion? To whom am I writing? Be specific

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**Context:** Where do I want my audience, or where do I think my audience will read this message?

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| Category  | Mark 5 | Comments |
|---|--------|----------|
| <b>Knowledge</b>  |        |          |
| Demonstrates clarity of position taken  |        |          |
| Uses accurate supporting facts and ideas  |        |          |
| Uses appropriate tone, voice and language use   |        |          |
| <b>Thinking</b>   |        |          |
| Selects and synthesizes the best facts and ideas from sources to support position taken |        |          |
| <b>Communication</b>  |        |          |
| Creates strong introduction and conclusion  |        |          |
| Uses transitions  |        |          |
| Organizes for impact (micro and macro)  |        |          |
| Makes appropriate word choices  |        |          |
| <b>Application</b>  |        |          |
| Demonstrates command of language conventions  |        |          |
| Demonstrates command of Canadian spelling, punctuation, and capitalization              |        |          |

