**Serial Opinion-Editorial**

Was justice served in the murder trial of Adnan Syed? After listening to *Serial* season 1 and reviewing related materials, write an opinion-editorial (op-ed) article for online publication in which you address this question and argue both Adnan’s guilt or innocence and the effectiveness of his prosecution and defense. Support your position by both directly citing and paraphrasing evidence from the podcast and related texts. Be sure to refute competing views.

Since Op-Eds are part of the journalism world, they don’t follow MLA format. See the chart below for important differences.

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **MLA Essays** | **Op-Eds/Journalism** |
| **Beginning of the Document** | Header (at top of every page) & Heading (at top of first page) | Just starts with an interesting, original title. No header or heading. Maybe consider a subtitle, like you saw on many of our articles. |
| **Spacing** | Double-spaced | Single-spaced |
| **Parenthetical Citations for Sources** | Author’s last name and page number in parentheses | Mention author/source naturally in your text (and include a hyperlink if possible!) |
| **Bibliography** | Works Cited Page | Not necessary; just credit your sources as mentioned above. |

**Assignment Requirements:**

* Must be typed (no larger than 12 point font)
* Length: The specific required length is 500-800 words; your paper must be a well-developed argument with sufficient **reasoning, evidence, counterclaim, and refutation**. General length will probably be at least one page, but probably less than two.
* Submit your paper to Google Drive and share with me (kari.long@fayette.kyschools.us)
* Also, **bring a printed copy to class that day**. If you cannot print, then email your document to Mrs. Long by the start of class with a note requesting her to print for you.
* If you do not have your rough draft finished on time, you will not be able to do our editing/revision assignment in class that day. You will not get a chance to redo this assignment. It will remain a permanent zero in the gradebook for your final exam if you are unprepared that day.
* Since this is your final exam, there is no remediation opportunity beyond a rough draft.

**Use the checklist below to help yourself remember to include all the elements of the Op-Ed that we’ve studied:**

* Original Title (perhaps a subtitle too?)

All of your body paragraphs (paragraphs that address reasons, counterclaims, or refutations) should still follow ACE paragraph format.

ANSWER = topic sentence (your reason, counterclaim, or refutation)

CITE = evidence/support (you probably don’t want to provide evidence for your counterclaim, but you should include a brief explanation why people might disagree or challenge your claim)

EXPLAIN = analysis/explanation about how/why your evidence proves your answer/topic sentence

* Lede
* Nutgraf
* Claim
* Reasons (2-4)
* Evidence (for each reason)
* Counterclaims (1-3)
* Refutations (for each counterclaim; evidence will likely be appropriate here too)
* Conclusion/Call to Action
* Byline with brief bio (and a photograph of yourself?)