How to Write an Editorial

What is an editorial?
An editorial is one of the writing styles used to express an opinion or reaction to timely news, event or an issue of concern. Most editorials are used to influence readers to think or act the same way the writer does. Not all editorials take sides on an issue but have one of the following four purposes:

1. Inform: The writer gives careful explanations about a complicated issue.
3. Praise: The writer praises a person or an event.
4. Entertain: The writer encourages or entertains the reader about an important issue.

Steps to writing your editorial:

1. Selecting: Choose an issue ~ Your editorial could be about how the readers could help the environment, inform the public about a particular endangered species, praise an effort by a group who has helped to take an endangered animal off of the endangered species list, or any other idea that can be used as an editorial...first check with your teacher to make sure it is an acceptable article.

2. Collecting: Gathering Support ~ Gather as many details to convince others about your opinion. Gather facts or evidence to support your answer, written statements from sources or authorities in the subject (experts), comparisons to similar situations to support your argument, pictures or images that strengthen your argument, etc.

3. Connecting: Remember to brainstorm before you write the first draft ~ Body should have clear and accurate details and examples. Give strong arguments in beginning of editorial and at the end. Show the opposing arguments and their weaknesses (paragraph 2). Offer a solution at the end. Do not be wishy-washy. Stick to your argument or opinion.

4. Correcting: Your editorial should be clear and forceful. Avoid attacking other authors – attack their argument! Do not preach. Paragraphs should be brief and direct, yet provide several examples and illustrations to prove your point. Be honest and accurate.

Sample of what should go into your editorial (each point should be a separate paragraph):

1. Start by defining the issue and clarify your stance on the issue. This is your thesis statement.
2. Explanation of the other side of the issue.
3. Examples and reasons to support your point of view. You can also use information to disprove the other side of the issue.
4. The last paragraph should restate your argument. Make it strong. This is your last chance to persuade the reader.

Works Cited