

Writing my research op-ed was a complicated yet interesting process in which I learned a lot of valuable lessons. Throughout the process, I learned how to balance personal opinion, research, and data. Finding incredible sources and including them in my op-ed was a complex task ensuring that the flow of my writing remained engaging and clear was a task. It was a struggle to maintain an accessible tone. The process was difficult, but I learned that nothing is hard once you put effort. I recognized my strengths and weaknesses such as my ability to find eye-catching pictures that would intrigue the audience was my strength however I struggled to find credible sources, drafting and revising multiple times. It was quite a lot of work.

Once I understood how to find credible sources, it became my strength. Using Google Scholar helped me find sources that supported and provided evidence to strengthen my argument. Once I had acquired sufficient sources with the same context that I was looking for relevant to my subject the next challenge I encountered was ensuring smooth transitions between paragraphs. Paraphrasing was complicated and took me some time to figure it out. At times I would rely on using direct quotes instead which disrupted the flow of my writing.

Organizing and planning ahead was a great source for developing a reverse outline and clear reflective annotations of each source aided in understanding the context of each source which made it very easy to develop an idea of how to begin my op-ed. The reverse outline ensured my argument remained smooth while maintaining a consistent tone throughout and including an emotional and appealing conversational tone to engage the readers. I made sure not to make it sound overly academic since my goal was to make my op-ed as engaging and interesting as possible.

Another struggle was setting aside my own bias and presenting a bias-free argument. I needed to ensure my stance was strong and clear. It was quite difficult to balance ethos, pathos, and logos. By including a direct call to action and emotional appeal I tried my best to make my op-ed most inspiring and influential.

A significant aid throughout this process was peer review. My peer helped me significantly in improving and developing a better version of my op-ed since my peer was on the same page as I was, receiving critical feedback didn't seem offensive and served quite helpful. Their review helped me correct errors, and ensure clarity even more. It enabled me to reconstruct my writing and improve it.

To sum up, the whole process taught me a lot. I faced struggles and challenges but I was able to overcome them and I succeeded in maintaining a strong argument with a consistent tone, emotional appeal and engaging themes to keep the readers interested and captivated. This reflection aided in identifying my strengths and weaknesses and provided a gateway for a lot of areas for me to work on and improve my writing skills.