



HOW TO WRITE AN OP-ED CLASSIC OP-ED STRUCTURE

Not every op-ed follows the structure below, but typically you won't go wrong using it if you're looking for a proven structure to use for an op-ed. You can also move around the concession to earlier in the piece if it serves your needs. Don't feel the obligation to follow the structure below, but, given that it's been used successfully by many and op-ed editors seem drawn to it, it's something with which to work.

First 2-3 paragraphs:

Hook: Why do I care?

Set-up: What's this column about?

Nut graph: What's your overarching point? (Your theme)

Next 4-5 paragraphs:

Diagnosis: Flesh out the problem or issue

Next 4-5 paragraphs:

Prescription: What's the solution?

Next 1-2 paragraphs:

Concession: What's the other side?

Final paragraph:

Coda/Call to action: What's your overarching point again? Or what do you want reader to do?

Also see:

The Op-Ed Project [website](#) for more op-ed structure guidelines.

NPR's [article](#), "A Good Lead Is Everything – Here's How to Write One."

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