

# 11 - Opinion, Editorial, Columns Copied from: Journalism 1, Copied on: 11/15/23

Content Area: **ELA**  
Course(s):  
Time Period: **Full Year**  
Length: **2 weeks**  
Status: **Published**

## **General Overview, Course Description or Course Philosophy**

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### **OBJECTIVES, ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS, ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

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- editorials and columns are the only kind of journalism where bias is acceptable
- columnists and editorialists craft their own voice and style of writing that's unique to them
- columnists and editorialists must consider their audience and write with a particular argumentative/persuasive structure that ends with a call to action

### **CONTENT AREA STANDARDS**

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W.9-10.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

A. Introduce a topic; organize complex ideas, concepts, and information to make important connections and distinctions; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., figures, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.

B. Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic.

C. Use appropriate and varied transitions to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships among complex ideas and concepts.

D. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to manage the complexity of the topic.

E. Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.

F. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the information or explanation presented (e.g., articulating implications or the significance of the topic).

W.9-10.3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

- A. Engage and orient the reader by setting out a problem, situation, or observation, establishing one or multiple point(s) of view, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events.
- B. Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description, reflection, and multiple plot lines, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- C. Use a variety of techniques to sequence events so that they build on one another to create a coherent whole.
- D. Use precise words and phrases, telling details, and sensory language to convey a vivid picture of the experiences, events, setting, and/or characters.
- E. Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on what is experienced, observed, or resolved over the course of the narrative.

W.9-10.4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)

W.9-10.5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

W.9-10.6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

W.9-10.8. Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).

W.9-10.1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

- A. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

- B. Develop claim(s) and counterclaims avoiding common logical fallacies, propaganda devices, and using sound reasoning, supplying evidence for each while pointing out the strengths and limitations of both in a manner that anticipates the audience's knowledge level and concerns.

- C. Use transitions (e.g. words, phrases, clauses) to link the major sections of the text, create cohesion, and clarify the relationships between claim(s) and reasons, between reasons and evidence, and between claim(s)

and counterclaims.

- D. Establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose (e.g. formal and objective for academic writing) while attending to the norms and conventions of the discipline in which they are writing.
- E. Provide a concluding paragraph or section that supports the argument presented.

LA.W.9-10.2	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
LA.W.9-10.3	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.
LA.W.9-10.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
LA.W.9-10.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, trying a new approach, or consulting a style manual (such as MLA or APA Style), focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.W.9-10.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology’s capacity to link to other information and to display information flexibly and dynamically.
LA.W.9-10.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the usefulness of each source in answering the research question; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation (MLA or APA Style Manuals).
LA.9-10.W.9-10.1	Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence. Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.

## **RELATED STANDARDS (Technology, 21st Century Life & Careers, ELA Companion Standards are Required)**

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9.4.12.CI.1: Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas (e.g., 1.1.12.prof.CR3a).

9.4.12.IML.2: Evaluate digital sources for timeliness, accuracy, perspective, credibility of the source, and relevance of information, in media, data, or other resources (e.g., NJSLSA.W8, Social Studies Practice: Gathering and Evaluating Sources).

9.4.12.IML.7: Develop an argument to support a claim regarding a current workplace or societal/ethical issue such as climate change (e.g., NJSLSA.W1, 7.1.AL.PRSNT.4).

9.4.12.IML.8: Evaluate media sources for point of view, bias, and motivations (e.g., NJSLSA.R6, 7.1.AL.IPRET.6).

9.4.12.IML.9: Analyze the decisions creators make to reveal explicit and implicit messages within information and media (e.g., 1.5.12acc.C2a, 7.1.IL.IPRET.4).

9.4.12.TL.3: Analyze the effectiveness of the process and quality of collaborative environments.

9.4.12.TL.4: Collaborate in online learning communities or social networks or virtual worlds to analyze and propose a resolution to a real-world problem (e.g., 7.1.AL.IPERS.6).

## **ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE & RESEARCH LIBRARIES INFORMATION LITERACY COMPETENCY STANDARDS FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS AND PROFESSIONALS**

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| J.1.1 | Defines the information need based on the story idea or research question  |
| J.2.2 | Retrieves information online or in person using a variety of methods   |
| J.2.4 | Uses records management and resource citation skills   |
| J.3.1 | Summarizes and synthesizes the main ideas of the information gathered  |
| J.3.4 | Compares new knowledge with prior knowledge to determine the value added, contradictions, or other unique characteristics of the information |
| J.3.5 | Validates knowledge of and interpretation of the information through dialogue with others  |
| J.3.6 | Decides whether the initial question or story idea should be revised   |
| J.4.1 | Applies information gathered to the planning and creation of a story or research product   |
| J.4.2 | Revises the development process for the story or research product  |
| J.4.3 | Effectively presents the story or research project to the intended audience  |

## **STUDENT LEARNING TARGETS**

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### **Declarative Knowledge**

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Students will understand:

- the characteristics of editorial writing
- who columnists write articles for
- in what ways they can consider their audience when writing
- the characteristics that create one's writing style
- the general shape/structure of an op-ed

Students will be able to define:

opinions, columns, editorials, "op-ed," byline, style, tone, diction, sarcasm/humor, repetition, hyperbole, imagery, syntax, claim, evidence, warrant, counterclaim, rebuttal, Toulmin Model of Argumentation, advocate, call to action, unsigned editorial

## **Procedural Knowledge**

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Students will be able to:

- write arguments to support claims (an opinion article or column)
- establish a writing “voice” through tone and style
- write routinely over extended time frames
- write with a certain purpose and to a certain audience
- establish and maintain a style and tone appropriate to the audience and purpose
- effectively utilize the Toulmin Model of Argumentation to structure and organize their arguments
- analyze the beat, tone, diction, and narrative elements of a chosen columnist
- chart an op-ed for its structure
- participate effectively in a pitch meeting for columns and opinion articles
- participate collaboratively in a group to create an unsigned editorial

## **EVIDENCE OF LEARNING**

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### **Alternate Assessment**

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- Interest Based Pitch-Sessions
- Debates
- Mock Trials
- Group Multimedia Presentations
- Individual Oral Presentations
- Teacher/Student Conferences
- Modified Rubrics

### **Formative Assessments**

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- Group and whole class discussion questions
- Debates
- Do Nows and Exit Slips
- Journal responses
- Group work/projects
- Pitch session
- Op-Ed Charting Worksheet

- Current Events of the Week quizzes
- No Red Ink assessments for various grammatical skills

## **Summative Assessments**

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- Unit 10 Test
- Timed Writing: Developing Leads
- Student Presentations
- Columnist analysis and presentation
- Written column or editorial
- Written unsigned editorial (group project)

## **RESOURCES (Instructional, Supplemental, Intervention Materials)**

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The Record, The Star-Ledger, The New York Times, Colt Chronicle, NJ.com, various award-winning NJ scholastic newspapers (print and online, Journalism: 5W and H by James Glen Stovall, Radical Write by Bobby Hawthorne, guest speaker, laptops, [Google Drive folder for Unit 11](#), NoRedInk.com, Newsela.com, The Elements of Journalism: What Newspeople Should Know and the Public Should Expect, Kovach and Rosenstiel, Three Rivers Press, New York (2007)

## **INTERDISCIPLINARY CONNECTIONS**

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### **English/Language Arts**

- Information Writing
- Implementation of conventions of Standard English

### **Social Studies**

Current Events

### **Technology/Multimedia**

- Audio/visual media analysis
- Researching based writing
- Educational tech applications

## **ACCOMMODATIONS & MODIFICATIONS FOR SUBGROUPS**

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### **Gifted and Talented:**

- Allow students to pursue independent projects based on their individual interests
- Provide enrichment activities that include more advanced material
- Conduct research and provide a presentation of appropriate topics.
- Provide assessments at a higher level of thinking

### **Students with Disabilities:**

- Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations
- Ask students to restate information, directions, and assignments.
- Repetition and practice
- Model skills/techniques to be mastered.
- Extended time to complete classwork
- Provide a copy of class notes
- Preferential seating to be mutually determined by the student and teacher

### **Students at Risk of Failure:**

- Pair visual prompts with verbal presentations
- Ask students to restate information, directions, and assignments.
- Repetition and practice
- Model to be mastered.
- Extended time to complete classwork
- Provide a copy of class notes
- Preferential seating to be mutually determined by the student and teacher