

Creating an Editorial – Responding To Profiteering during WW1

1. What is an editorial?

EDITORIAL – definition:

- an article in a print or online publication that expresses the views and opinions of the editors or publishers.

Editors usually make up the management of a newspaper or publication, and decide how the layout will look, and what topics will be discussed. Most editors also have a personal or group point of view and use their publication/newspaper to highlight their opinions.

2. What is the purpose of an editorial?

An editorial is used to create a discussion about a certain topic. Newspapers and publications are read by certain groups, and editorials offer opinions that the reader can either agree or disagree with. Common editorials try to influence readers into thinking about an issue in a certain way.

3. What makes up a good editorial?

- an interesting introduction to introduce the topic
- the topic is noted either explicitly (it tells you), or the topic is implicit (the topic is implied).
- the opinion is noted either explicitly or implicitly (using keywords and ideas)
- the opinion successfully represents the views of a certain group or portion of the public
- several points and facts are used to validate the opinion that is being presented
- a brief conclusion that re-emphasizes the opinion
- at least 3 paragraphs of writing broken into an introduction, body, and conclusion

4. Example of an Editorial

Topic: *Prime Minister Borden convinces parliament to accept conscription.*

Situation: *The Wingham-Advanced Times newspaper editors fear that farming in the area will suffer due to a lack of young men who are available to work and support the local businesses.*

Editorial: *The editors choose to write an editorial about why adopting conscription would likely have a negative impact on local businesses.*

To think about...

How do you think citizens of Wingham in 1917 might have felt about conscription after reading a local editorial criticizing conscription?

Profiteering during WW1 – Responding with an editorial

Your task is to construct a short editorial that offers an opinion about profiteering during WW1

Preparation: Define the following RAFT elements before you begin.

R – what is my role? (newspaper editor)

A – who is my audience? (who are the people that are reading my newspaper?)

F – what is the format of my writing? (editorial)

T – what is the topic? (profiteering in Canada during WW1)

1. What is my opinion? How do I (as an editor) feel about profiteering during WW1?

2. What are the reasons why I have this opinion?

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

3. What type of people, or what specific people, am I trying to convince that my opinion is correct?

4. Who are the people that likely disagree with me? Why might they disagree with me?

Creating your own editorial:

Use the information above to develop your own short editorial. (complete below and on the back of the page.)