

# Step-by-Step

## Writing Op-Eds

**Most published op-eds follow this outlined format. However, you should use your own personal experiences to convey the strongest message possible.**

*Op-Ed Word Count: 400-600*

1. Lede
  1. Something surprising that grabs attention. Make it current and back it up with evidence
  2. Ex: *Back to school: a time when parents spend an average of over \$680 on school supplies and clothes per child, according to the National Retail Federation. Schools ask parents to buy classroom tissues, notebooks, and \$110 graphing calculators. It's no wonder costs quickly add up.*
2. Thesis
  1. Straightforward
  2. Ex: *Fully funded schools are able to provide students with the supplies they need to succeed throughout the school year*
3. Argument
  1. Back it up with evidence. Make it credible and make references for statistics.
  2. Ex: *Schools are underfunded. Tie it back to history: Parents sued NYS for not providing students with a "sound, basic education"*
  3. Show how Cuomo is against increasing funding.
4. Counter Argument and rebuttal
  1. What is the other side of the argument and prove it wrong
  2. Why is Cuomo against increasing funding? Why is he wrong?
  3. Ex: *Cuomo pins the blame on districts inadequately distributing funding across their schools. However, districts in impoverished areas don't have enough money to distribute.*
5. Conclusion
  1. Loop back to the lede
  2. Finish with a call to action

3. *Ex: The state must step in to better fund schools and stop pinning the blame on districts distribution of funding. We must not stand silent, as students are being deprived of their New York State constitutional rights. A properly funded education is a right all children are guaranteed, but don't receive; we must demand our legislators to give us our rights.*