Mini-Editorials

Write a few sentences about **10** of the following 16 topics. Think of your audience as the school newspaper community, specifically students. Remember, information + opinion= EDITORIALS. Don’t be afraid to use humor but be serious if the topic demands it. Some topics are vague and you may go in any direction you want for this assignment. See the back of this page for some examples.

For this assignment, each mini-editorial must include:

* An introduction to the topic (some background information)
* Your opinion on the topic
* 1 fact supporting your opinion

Please type all mini-editorials. Start each mini-editorial with the number that corresponds to the number below for that topic.

TOPIC CHOICES:

1. The President of the U.S.A.
2. Cell phones in school: ban them or allow them in classrooms?
3. School dress code
4. Is Prom worth it?
5. High school day start times
6. Fair-weather sports fans
7. Schools censoring the Internet
8. Plastic/cosmetic surgery
9. Year-round school
10. Senior privileges
11. A new movie or book that was released in the past 3 weeks
12. Apps: do they help you or just waste your time?
13. Having/ getting a job as a teenager
14. Snapchat, Twitter, Facebook, or other social media sites
15. Violent video games/movies/tv shows: should they be sold to minors?
16. A topic of your choice:

Rubric used to grade each Mini-Editorial:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| CATEGORY | **Excellent**  **A** | **Above Average**  **B** | **Average**  **C** | **Below Average**  **D** | **Unacceptable**  **F** |
| **Grading** | Editorial contains brief background, writer's opinion, and 1 fact to back up opinion. Writing exceeds expectations.  **5 pts.** | Editorial contains brief background, writer's opinion, and 1 fact to back up opinion. Writing is well developed and thoughtful.  **4pts.** | Editorial contains brief background, writer's opinion, and 1 fact to back up opinion. Some improvement in writing is needed.  **3 pts.** | Editorial is missing some/all of elements: brief background, writer's opinion, and 1 fact to back up opinion. Writing does not meet acceptable standards.  **2 pts.** | No editorial provided.  **0 pt.** |

Noteworthy student examples from past years:

4. Spending tons of money on prom is tradition. Due to Michigan’s economy, tradition should be broken. Prom is an overrated high school event in which high school seniors imitate celebrities for one night. They take their significant other to a fancy dinner in fancy clothes, cruising in a fancy car. The last time I checked, we live in a state where the government can’t afford to stay open, let alone where kids can be dropping mommy and daddy’s cash. If prom night insists on being so expensive, they should offer something better than a meal at a local banquet hall.

8. Today, more and more people are getting plastic surgery to cover up insecurities. Celebrities and even Jo from down the street have had work done. It’s a growing trend all around the world. In 2005 alone, 9,057,820 Americans had plastic surgery. Plastic surgery just shows how much media affects the average American’s life. We are presented with things saying we need to be perfect and ideal. Even with plastic surgery, people will still have insecurities. Insecurities are a part of life, and nothing will make that untrue. So why spend thousands of dollars on surgery, when you could just work with what you have.