

Some Common Op Ed Moves



OpEd Moves: A purposeful argument is built by thinking about the heart of the issue. What matters? Writers ask: What do I want readers to understand? What is the best way to get their attention and influence them?

OpEds use all the basics of argument writing: claims, commentary, and use of sources. But there are three writer's moves that seem most common. Look for them in all the OpEds you read. Use them in the OpEds you write.

1. **Something Happened:** OpEds are written in response to current social issues. This names the reason a writer is taking a stand to call for change or offer alternate views to a public conversation.
2. **Claim Series:** OpEd writers often state and change their claim several times from the beginning to end of the argument. The series of claims have different purposes, but together they form a line of visible line of logical thinking.
 - **Early Claim:** An early claim frames the focus of the argument at the beginning of the argument. This *early claim* establishes the issue and often states a personal view or ask a question. Questions launch an inquiry that allows the writer to provide answers and inform a reader and argue a perspective or claim at the same time.
 - **Call to Action Claim:** A *call to action claim* states what is being done, or what needs to be done and who is or should be doing it. This type of claim often appears in the middle or end of an OpEd.
 - **And so, now...Claim:** OpEds usually close with a nuanced or refined claim. This claim emerges from the organization. As the writer comes to new thinking on the issue, the claim emphasizes that new thinking with an *and so, now...claim*.
3. **Multiple Views:** OpEd writers often pair two views. They use sources to counter and refute.

TIPS for Identify Multiple Views

³⁵/₁₇ Look for signal phrases that introduce an opposing view: another view, opponents of, I understand, or some researchers/people.

³⁵/₁₇ Look for signal phrases that refute an opposing view: but, although, or however.