

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT EDITORIALS and OP-EDs

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN NEWS AND EDITORIAL WRITING?

Editorials express a writer's opinions and are generally printed either on their own page of a newspaper or in a clearly marked-off column. They are (or should be) labeled as editorials to avoid confusion with news coverage. Editorials often address current events or public controversies.

WHAT IS AN EDITORIAL? An editorial is an article by a [news](#) organization, [newspaper](#) or [magazine](#) that expresses the opinion of the [editor](#), [editorial board](#) or [publisher](#).

WHAT IS AN OP-ED? Op-Ed stands for 'Opposite Editorial', typically the page opposite the editorial page. An Op-Ed represents the opinion of an individual contributor, who is usually not affiliated with the newspaper. An average Op-Ed is 750 words or fewer.

WHO IS THE EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR? This person manages all letters to the editor, editorials, syndicated columns and content on the Op-Ed page.

WHAT IS AN EDITORIAL BOARD? The editorial page editor and editorial writers comprise a newspaper's editorial board. Most editorial writers are assigned specific areas of interest. A newsroom representative may also sit in on the board. Editorial board members will regularly meet to discuss and assign editorial tasks. Editorials written by the board represent the newspaper's official positions on the issues. Newspapers may also hire one or more regular opinion columnists who present their own points of view. Some newspapers also use nationally syndicated columnists in their opinion pages.