

# WRIT 101 Inquiry Project 2 Assignment Sheet



## Putting In Your Oar: Arguing in an Op-Ed

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**Three to four pages** (750 to 1,000 words), plus Works Cited. Final draft is due **Thursday, March 20**.

*Imagine you enter a parlor. You come late and when you arrive others have long preceded you, and they are engaged in a heated discussion, too heated for them to pause and tell you exactly what it is about. In fact, the discussion had already begun long before any of them got there, so no one present is qualified to retrace for you all the steps that had gone on before. You listen for a while, until you decide that you have caught the tenor of the argument; then you put in your oar. Someone answers; you answer him; another comes to your defense, another aligns himself against you, to either the embarrassment or gratification of your opponent, depending on the quality of your ally's assistance. However, the discussion is interminable. The hour grows late, you must depart. And you do depart, with the discussion still vigorously in progress. ~ Kenneth Burke*



### Assignment

For this second major inquiry assignment, you will pursue a specific research topic and question relating to Montana, Missoula, or UM. (This sounds familiar, yes?) From your research, you will select a single article or editorial to analyze and respond to in the form of an op-ed essay. The op-ed (“opposite of editorial page,” from newspaper parlance) is a genre of argument, so you will need to assert an informed, confident opinion and present reasoning and evidence to support it. In its final form, your essay should

- Develop a clearly stated, cohesive argument
- Present a strong thesis statement early in the paper
- Offer accurate and fair analysis of your chosen editorial or article
- Show that you understand the complexity of your topic
- Develop your argument with clear, thoughtful reasoning; avoid fallacies!
- Use relevant, sufficient, quality researched evidence to support your reasons and claim
- Use appeals to demonstrate audience awareness
- Locate your op-ed piece in the context of relevant arguments and counterarguments (conversation)
- Use first-person voice



### Required Drafts and Artifacts

1. Final draft (as specified in Formatting Guidelines)
2. Sketch with peer comments
3. Full workshop draft with my comments
4. All workshop peer worksheets
5. One additional artifact demonstrating an important point in your writing process for the LPE
6. All research journals and links to or copies of original sources in the essay



### Evaluation Criteria

I'll give you comments and a check-system mark rather than a letter grade. I will read your final draft to determine success with the assignment goals, plus

- Practicing conventions for introducing and documenting sources in MLA style, in the text and in Works Cited
- Practicing conventions of formatting, grammar, punctuation, etc. appropriate to the writing situation