

## Project three

### Editorials



In the first and second projects, the focus was reporting on news events. Now we will explore commenting on events or issues. This type of writing (or audio/video presentation) is called editorial journalism or commentary. The aim is to express an opinion and possibly even to convince the public of the journalist's point of view, not simply to inform readers or listeners about objective facts. Some of these editorial journalists have had a great impact on society. The following film describes the career of one of the most important editorial journalists in the history of the United States.

A) Watch the film ***Good Night and Good Luck*** about a famous editorial newscaster, Edward R. Murrow.



In addition, you can watch this short video; it is a speech by Murrow about the importance of presenting intelligent news programs on television: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1cfwsfGggPM>

Name of film	
Summary of the film	
Setting (Time and place)	
Opening situation	
Main conflict	
Principle events	
Conclusion	
Message of the film	
What did you learn about editorials, commentary and opinions in journalism?	

Discuss your answers with a partner or the teacher

B) Read or watch an editorial article (or radio/television commentary) and analyze it, using the rubric below:

<a href="https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials.html">https://www.thestar.com/opinion/editorials.html</a> 	<a href="http://montrealgazette.com/category/opinion/editorials">http://montrealgazette.com/category/opinion/editorials</a> 
<a href="https://www.cnn.com/opinions">https://www.cnn.com/opinions</a> 	<a href="http://www.foxnews.com/opinion.html">http://www.foxnews.com/opinion.html</a> 
<a href="https://www.npr.org/sections/opinion/">https://www.npr.org/sections/opinion/</a> 	

Journalist	
News source (newspaper, tv station, etc...)	
Subject of the editorial	
Summarize journalist's opinion	
Body (three main arguments, minimum)	
Conclusion	

Describe the readers or audience who you think would like this article	
Effectiveness of the journalist's arguments	
Do you agree with their opinion (why or why not?)	

In addition to the two verb tenses reviewed in project two, journalists often employ two other tenses to describe events that have taken place in the past:

**TASK 2:** Review of present perfect and present perfect continuous

Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
1. Unfinished action (from past to present) <i>Ex: How long have you lived in St-Hubert? I've lived here for 2 years/ since 2015.</i>	Similar to present perfect case 1 (from past to present, continuing into the future) <i>Ex: She has been working here for three years.</i>
2. Action at an indefinite time in the past <i>Ex: Have you ever tasted snails? No I haven't. Yes I have.</i> (if you refer to a specific time then use the simple)	
3. Repeated past <i>Ex: How often have you visited Ottawa? I've never visited Ottawa. I've been there three times.</i>	
4. Recent past <i>Ex: Have you finished your breakfast yet? Yes, I've already finished. Yes, I've just finished.</i>	

**TASK 3:** Write an editorial article or write a script and produce a video of your editorial commentary on the subject. Your editorial must contain 250 words, minimum. If you choose to do an audio or video commentary, it should be at least three minutes long. Use the rubric to take notes first.

If you can't think of a subject for your editorial, you can click on this New York Times link with four hundred possible topics on a variety of subjects:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/03/01/learning/lesson-plans/401-prompts-for-argumentative-writing.html>



### Here are a few links to sites that explain...

#### how to structure an editorial text:

<http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar-rules-and-tips/tips-on-writing-newspaper-editorial-format.html>



<https://www.geneseo.edu/~bennett/EdWrite.htm>



[http://www.hmhco.com/~media/sites/home/education/disciplines/language-arts/homeschool/write-source-homeschool/samplers/g7\\_sampler.pdf?la=en](http://www.hmhco.com/~media/sites/home/education/disciplines/language-arts/homeschool/write-source-homeschool/samplers/g7_sampler.pdf?la=en)



<https://www.learner.org/workshops/middlewriting/images/pdf/jb-cell%20phones.pdf>



#### how to write a radio news commentary:

<https://youthradio.org/teach-youth-radio/diy-toolkit-how-to-write-a-commentary/>



After exploring the above websites, choose whether you would like to:

☐ Write an editorial article (for a newspaper)

☐ Produce a radio/video commentary

**Use this rubric to prepare notes for your newspaper editorial article or audio/video editorial commentary:**

<b>Your name</b>	
<b>Imaginary news source (newspaper, tv station, etc...)</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	
<b>Describe your readers or audience</b>	
<b>Summarize your opinion</b>	
<b>Three main arguments, minimum (supported with at least one example per argument)</b>	
<b>Conclusion</b>	

Write the first (rough) draft of your article on a separate sheet of paper. Verify the use of elements reviewed in this project before writing your final draft:

	Yes	No	Examples
I used the present perfect where appropriate			
I used the present perfect continuous where appropriate			
I used journalistic functional language (sentence starters)			