

Choosing a Topic & Ethics

Opinion Writing

TODAY

We will learn ways to think about choosing a topic for an opinion article and ethical responsibilities that come with opinion writing.

I will choose a topic based on these criteria and consider the ethical questions for my topic.

ON YOUR OWN

*Read this critique of the football team: **What feels unfair about the argument?***

The football team simply needs to move faster if it wants to ever have a shot of moving past district. NFL players have an average 40-yard dash of 4.5 seconds; ours barely hit 5 in the team's first year.

ON YOUR OWN

*Read this critique of the football team: **What feels unfair about the argument?***

Comparing a high school team to the NFL for any reason is making an unfair comparison.

In addition, if the football team is in its first year, criticizing any long-term strategy is unfair as the team is still figuring itself out.

In sum, the expectations are all too high.

WHAT'RE YOUR THOUGHTS?

*Should the government restrict what
is served in cafeteria lines?*

YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED

1. Choose *topics* you *have a fresh, local angle* for — particularly about practices and policies you feel should change
2. Choose *topics you are passionate and knowledgeable about.*
3. You have a duty to *research, and be accurate and clear.*
4. You must be *fair in your criticism* and *understand expectations* your target should really be meeting. Otherwise you are just a bully.
5. You *should not cherry pick arguments*; face the real arguments against your stance and the realities of your position.

WHAT'RE YOUR THOUGHTS?

What quality should be expected from the choir program?

What criticism would be fair?