

Modern Mexico Opinion-Editorial

Introduction

Now that we have become well versed in the historical roots of the current SPICE realities of Mexico, it is time that we look to the future of Mexico. For our first writing task of the year, you are going to research, plan and write an Op-Ed that identifies one current issue facing Mexico and present a plan for addressing it. Through this persuasive writing piece, we will attempt to demonstrate mastery of the below standards:

Focus/Thesis/Theme: *I can clearly develop and identify the main point of my writing.*

Evidence/Historical Details: *I can use a variety of types of evidence to support my main point.*

Historical Analysis: *I can create a logical and compelling argument that is developed clearly and logically.*

Social Studies Writing: *I can organize my ideas, write using proper citations, and use a variety of writing strategies.*

In order to successfully demonstrate your mastery of these standards, your Op-Ed's should:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the issue and its historical roots in Mexico
- Include factual evidence that is specific and documented (parenthetical or endnote in-text citations)
- Provide a persuasive argument for a way to address this issue and makes a clear appeal to stakeholder who can take action
- Have a clear organizational structure and adhere to conventions for grammar, sentence structure and documentation.
- Be approximately **500-750 words in length**

Step 1: Select a Topic and a Position

While there are a number of issues facing Mexico in 2017, I have narrowed down your options to the below choices. Your first step will be to select the issue you find most interesting and develop your opinion about it.

SPICE Element	Current Issues Facing Mexico
Social	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Inequity between the elites and the poor <input type="checkbox"/> Education Reform <input type="checkbox"/> Rights for Women
Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Political Corruption and Influence of the Narcos in Government <input type="checkbox"/> Border Wall and US-Mexico Relations

Interaction with the Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Internal Migration within Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> Immigration to the United States <input type="checkbox"/> Preparation for and Response to Natural Disasters <input type="checkbox"/> Impact of Industrialization on Mexico's Biodiversity or Climate
Cultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Marginalization of Indigenous language/culture in Mexican Education
Economic	<input type="checkbox"/> Impact of NAFTA on Mexico's Economy <input type="checkbox"/> Low minimum wage <input type="checkbox"/> Maquiladoras

Step 2: Gather Some Research

Now that you have selected your issue, the goal is find out more. If during the research phase, you decide to change your opinion, even your issue, it's totally fine. Your research goal is to gather 4-5 reliable sources that can help be used to support your argument with facts and the opinions of experts who see the issue the same way you do. Remember to document as you go using the MLA format for bibliographic and in-text citations to reference later on when writing your paper.

Step 3 Plan your Op-Ed

With research in hand, you want to structure your Op-Ed clearly to ensure a persuasive argument. The basic skeleton should include:

1. An opening paragraph that explains why this issue is in need of solving and ends with your solution.
2. Two to three paragraphs where you give the reasons (one reason per paragraph) your solution is necessary and how Mexico will be improved if your advice is followed. Including textual evidence throughout paragraphs.
3. A concluding paragraph where you engage the relevant stakeholders and lay out what you want done and when. Final sentence explaining why this matters.

Write Your Op-Ed

Plan in place, now you need to write your argument. Keep the rubric in mind as you are writing because this is how your Op-Ed will be evaluated. We will dedicate the class period before the due date to peer editing and revision.

Due Dates/Formative Expectations

Component of Op-Ed	Due at the Beginning of Class on
Working Bibliography of 4-5 sources	
First Draft of Op-Ed	
Final Copy of Op-Ed	