**Deciding on a Topic for Your Op-Ed**

Begin thinking about a topic you might enjoy writing about for your op-ed. It should be something that has a connection to U.S. local, national or international policy and/or has political implications (as many topics do). To think of topics, feel free to:

1. Look through the current events articles you have brought in on Fridays so far this year. Do you see patterns? Are there topics you would like to explore further?
2. Look through the [New York Times’ Student Editorial Contest Finalists](https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/editorial-winners) and see if any of those topics spark new ideas.
3. Browse the topics on this site, [192 Questions for Writing or Discussion](file:///C%3A%5Ca%29%09http%5C%3A%3Alearning.blogs.nytimes.com%3A2016%3A06%3A15%3A192-questions-for-writing-or-discussion%3A%3F_r%3D0).
4. Talk to your parents, friends or other adults about interesting topics.

*Due in two days:*

* Write 100+ words on a topic or topics you would like to research in the library on Wednesday and possibly write about for your op-ed. If you’d like to do research before then, feel free to print out any relevant articles on your topic.
* List at least five different phrases you could look for, relating to your topic, when you search the library’s databases or the free web on Wednesday in class.

🡪 THE MORE SPECIFIC, THE BETTER. For instance, searching for “illegal immigration” is way too broad. Searching for “stopping illegal immigration from Central America” or “minimum wage for farmworkers in California” has the necessary level of detail.

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