

English 12
Mr. Monsen
Editorial

Directions: Complete steps 1-12 in order in your notebook.

Step 1: Brainstorm ideas by completing the following activity:

1) Make a list of **five** topics/issues in our society that you have a strong opinion on.

2) Rank the topics/issues in your list.

5 is the least interesting to you

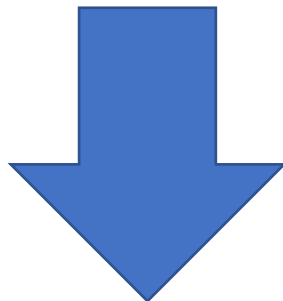
1 is the most interesting to you

3) Choose the #3 issue on your list and write about it for five minutes.

4) Choose the #1 on your list and write about it for five minutes.

Step 2: Read the **Assignment Directions** and the **Sample Editorial** on the next page entitled “End the Gun Epidemic in America”.

Assignment Directions: Write an editorial to a local newspaper that clearly states your position on an issue that is important to you. Support your position with logical appeals and strong evidence. There is a **maximum** of 600 words, it must be typed, and include your name and where you are from (town or school). Extra points are awarded for attention to detail in the arrangement.



End the Gun Epidemic in America

October 5, 2018

There were 464,033 total gun deaths between 1999 and 2013 (1). Buying a gun in the United States is a simple process these days, almost as simple as ordering food at the drive thru. It is a moral outrage and national disgrace that civilians can legally purchase weapons designed to kill people with brutal speed and efficiency. Guns are one of the most serious problems in our country and we need to end the gun epidemic in this country by creating laws that make owning certain guns illegal.

All decent people feel sorrow and righteous fury about the latest slaughter of innocents, in California. Law enforcement and intelligence agencies are searching for motivations, including the vital question of how the murderers might have been connected to international terrorism. That is right and proper.

But motives do not matter to the dead in California, nor did they in Colorado, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia, Connecticut and far too many other places. The attention and anger of Americans should also be directed at the elected leaders whose job is to keep us safe but who place a higher premium on

America's elected leaders offer prayers for gun victims and then, callously and without fear of consequence, reject the most basic restrictions on weapons of mass killing, as they did on Thursday.



They distract us with arguments about the word terrorism. Let's be clear: These spree killings are all, in their own ways, acts of terrorism.

Opponents of gun control are saying, as they do after every killing, that no law can unfailingly forestall a specific criminal. That is true. They are talking, many with sincerity, about the constitutional challenges to effective gun regulation. Those challenges exist. They point out that determined killers obtained weapons illegally in places like France, England and Norway that have strict gun laws. Yes, they did.

But at least those countries are trying. The United States is not. Worse, politicians abet would-be killers by creating gun markets for them, and voters allow those politicians to keep their jobs. It is past time to stop

It is not necessary to debate the peculiar wording of the Second Amendment. No right is unlimited and immune from reasonable regulation.

Certain kinds of weapons, like the slightly modified combat rifles used in California, and certain kinds of ammunition, must be outlawed for civilian ownership. It is possible to define those guns in a clear and effective way and, yes, it would require Americans who own those kinds of weapons to give them up for the good of their fellow citizens.

What better time than during a presidential election to show, at long last, that our nation has retained its sense of decency? Now is the time for change.

By Amanda Hugandkiss
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Word Count: 487

(1) ProCon.org. "Gun Control ProCon.org." *ProCon.org*, 4 October 2018, www.gun-control.procon.org.

Step 3: Copy the “Definition of an Editorial” notes below into your notebook:

Definition of an Editorial - an article in a newspaper or other periodical or on a website presenting the opinion of the publisher, writer, or editor.

Step 4: Think about an issue in society that you feel strongly about and **do some research** to find more information about that topic. *Write down some facts and details about the topic in your notebook while researching. You can use the facts to get a better idea about how you feel about the issue and even use some in your editorial.* The topic you choose can be anything from popular controversial topics like Gun Control to something as simple as an issue in your school or town that you feel strongly about.

Step 5: Copy the “Editorial Outline” sample for this assignment below into your notebook and then complete your own outline:

Basic Outline for Editorial

- I. Inverted Pyramid Introduction
 - a. Include a fact/statistic that grabs the reader’s attention
 - b. Have a clear, provable thesis

- II. Describe the issue a little more in-depth
 - a. Give some background info. on the issue

- III. State your opinion clearly
 - a. Give solid reasons, not just emotion
 - b. Real examples work best
 - c. Maybe use a fact for support
 - d. Explain your opinion some more

- IV. *State your opinion clearly* **again**
 - a. Give solid reasons, not just emotion
 - b. Real examples work best
 - c. Maybe use a fact for support
 - d. Explain your opinion some more

- V. State counter-opinion, then disprove
 - a. Use facts and solid reasoning to disprove

- VI. Call for action
 - a. “We should ban all guns to avoid more unnecessary deaths in the future!”

Step 6: Copy the “Inverted Pyramid Introduction” notes below into your notebook.

Inverted Pyramid Introduction

Start your introduction off in a general way – maybe use a fact

or eye-catching statistic about the topic



Then progress to more specific details

about the topic



Finally, end your introduction
with a specific, provable statement,
which will be your “thesis”

Step 7: Copy the “Thesis Statement Notes” and the “3 Steps to Writing a Thesis” notes below into your notebook:

Thesis Statement Notes

- Is a specific statement that clearly takes one side of an argument
- Should be an informed opinion based on knowledge of facts and reflects logical thinking
- Gives a call for action
- Is usually written in one sentence
- Often comes at the end of the introduction

3 Step Process to Writing a Thesis:

1) Write a YES or NO question about the topic.

For example, “**Should teachers be allowed to carry guns in school?**”

2) Answer the question.

“**Yes, teachers should be allowed to carry guns because (state your reason)...**”

3) Re-state your answer (taking out the yes and cleaning the sentence up) into one clear statement.

“**Teachers should be allowed to carry guns in school because it will provide another layer of security to safeguard schools against gun attacks.**”

Step 8: Copy the “**Appositives Notes**” below into your notebook and then complete the “**Practice Writing Appositives**” in your notebook as well. Don’t cheat and look at the answers until you are finished with the practice

Appositives Notes

Copy the two sentences below and then combine them into one:

Stephen King is the author of *The Shawshank Redemption*.

Stephen King is an excellent writer.

Now read this:

Stephen King is the author of *The Shawshank Redemption*,

he is an excellent writer.

This is a COMMA SPLICE.

It just joins two complete sentences into one using a comma.

This is incorrect.

Now read the correct way to combine them:

Stephen King, author of *The Shawshank Redemption*, is an excellent writer.

This is called an APPOSITIVE. It is a great way to combine shorter sentences.

Practice Writing Appositives

Part I: Identify the appositives in the following sentences. Write the appositive ONLY in your notebook.

1. The neighbor boys, the twins, were excellent baseball players.
2. The girl in the red dress is Sarah, our best actress.
3. Have you read *Brothers*, a book by Dean Hughes?
4. There goes Grant Long, the electrical contractor.
5. My friend, Matt Matson, collects lost hubcaps.

Answers:

1. the twins
2. our best actress
3. a book by Dean Hughes
4. the electrical contractor
5. Matt Matson

Part II: Combine the following sentences by using an appositive. Rewrite the sentences for each number below into one sentence using an appositive. Do this in your notebook.

1. Sonja sits beside me in English class. She is a girl from Poland.
2. There goes David. He is the owner of many businesses.
3. Last night I talked with Leon. He is my neighbor. He is my business partner.

Answers:

1. Sonja, a girl from Poland, sits beside me in English class.
2. There goes David, the owner of many businesses.
3. Last night I talked with Leon, my neighbor and business partner.

Step 9: Copy the “**Commonly Confused Words Notes**” below into your notebook. Then take the “**Commonly Confused Words**” quiz in your notebook and grade it using the Answer Key. Again, don’t cheat! Write the grade down next to the quiz when you are finished.

Commonly Confused Words Notes

Directions: Copy the commonly confused words below into your notebook. Then write the definition for each.

Then =

Than =

Their =

There =

They’re =

Now look at the real definitions:

Then = time

Than = comparison

Their = ownership (“I” own it)

There = place (“here” is a place)

They’re = they are

Commonly Confused Words Quiz - There, Their and They're

Directions: *Each of the following sentences uses one or more of these words: **there, their** or **they're**. Whenever you see one of these words used **incorrectly**, rewrite the correct word on the line. If it's correct the way it is, just write *Correct*.*

1. The library book is over their.
2. Cats use their tongues to groom themselves.
3. Did they forget there lunches at home?
4. The students handed in they're best work.
5. This is a day there not going to forget.
6. It's too far, so we don't go their anymore.
7. James and Maria hung their coats in there lockers.
8. There are always enough snacks for everyone.
9. The teacher hung they're art on the bulletin board.
10. You'll find the glue and scissors in their.

Commonly Confused Words Quiz Answer Key:

1. there
2. correct
3. their
4. their
5. they're
6. there
7. correct, their
8. correct
9. their
10. there

Step 10: Write the rough draft of your essay **in your notebook first**. *Try incorporating as many skills from this packet as you can into this piece. It will only make the piece and your grade better.* The skills you should use are: Inverted Pyramid, Writing a Clear Thesis, Following an Outline, Writing Appositives, and Commonly Confused Words.

Step 11: **Proofread** and **revise** your rough draft.

Step 12: **Type** up the **final copy** of your **Editorial** to look like the sample you read earlier.

Step 13: **Submit** the essay to Google Classroom by the deadline on the calendar.