

What is editorial?

Each day newspapers publish a large number of news stories. These stories are 'factual' articles, i.e. they report 'facts'. They do not include the opinions, feelings, and biases of the reporters, editors and owners of the newspapers. Any 'voice' heard or 'opinion' and 'feeling' expressed in these stories comes, mostly through quotations, from such people as 'officials', 'experts', 'witnesses', or those directly involved in the story.

In addition to news, newspapers publish separate articles in which they express their own views on current issues in the news. Such articles are referred to as 'editorials'. An editorial, then, is the expression of the opinion or the position of (the owners and editors of) a newspaper on current issues in the news. In their news stories, newspapers present facts, but in their editorials they can tell their readers what they think of the issues and events in those stories.

The Editorial Page

- ✓ The editorial page of any newspaper is the VOICE of the editorial staff and the readers.
- ✓ It expresses the opinion of whatever the management of the publication feels in relation to the present occasion.

Objectives of an Editorial

- ✓ To explain and interpret the news, to put it in on its proper perspective, to analyze it, to draw conclusions from that analysis and
- ✓ To persuade the readers to follow a course of action that the newspaper believes is for the public good regardless of party interests involved

Functions of an Editorial Writer

- ✓ Explaining the news
- ✓ Filling the background
- ✓ Forecasting the future
- ✓ Passing moral judgment

Principles of Editorial Writing

- ✓ The code of principles emphasizes the scientific method in arriving at and presenting the TRUTH.
- ✓ The editorial writer should present facts honestly and fully.
- ✓ The editorial writer should draw objective conclusions from the stated facts, basing them upon the weight of evidence and upon his considered concept of the greatest good.
- ✓ The editorial writer should never be motivated by personal interest, nor use his influence to seek special favors for himself or for others.
- ✓ The editorial writer should realize that he is not infallible.
- ✓ The editorial writer should regularly review his own conclusions in the light of all obtainable information.
- ✓ The editorial writer should have the courage of well-founded conviction and democratic philosophy of life.
- ✓ The editorial writer should support his colleagues in their adherence to highest standards of profession integrity.

Types of Editorial

- ✓ Informative- those which just give information review, or announce certain facts or event

Example: The Need for Population Education

Poverty, high cost of living, school crisis, lack of job opportunities confronts common people. Millions of children are victims of under-nourishment and deficiency diseases that shorten their life and harm their mental development. Due to the failure of parents to send all their children to school, illiteracy rates are high and are still increasing. Many of us have these problems. But very few are aware that excessive population growth is responsible for these pressures as well as for the lowering of the quality of human resources and development, especially as regards educational standards. The inclusion of Population Education in the school curriculum is then the answer to the need of the younger crop that are bound to face the reality of parenthood in the near future. Basic cultural values concerning the individual, his family, the society, and the nation can be effectively brought in to the extent desired through population education. Finally, creating awareness about population is a challenge that Philippine education has to face right now. For time is against us. And time-wasting is resource-wasting. This idea will help in adopting a small family norm and will insure good health for the mother, better welfare of the children, economic stability of the family, and a bright future for the continuing generations. Informative – are those which just give information, review, or announce certain facts or events.

Example: Attitude towards Study

We are in school because we want to learn. Our study is for our own benefit and not to accommodate someone else. As such we have to relate it to our own aims or ambitions in life. We should not think of study merely in terms of quizzes, recitations, homework, term papers and reports. Putting a valuation upon it in terms of five, ten or twenty years from now will give it more meaning to us. The facts, ideas, and principles we acquire now are the stuff with which we will do our thinking in the future. Let's remember, too, that how we learn is sometimes more important than what we learn. An efficient working

method will serve us throughout life, but many of the things we learn will just be forgotten. Being systematic about study will do a lot. Habit then comes to our aid. With just a few weeks to go before classes end, we hope these few reminders will result to a better attitude towards study.

- ✓ **Interpretative – those which explain or bring out the significance of an event, situation, or idea**
- ✓ **Editorials of crusade and reform** – those which criticize certain conditions, then suggest a solution or change; or which just give a message of reform without necessarily pointing out a problem or a bad condition

Example: The Way of Most Desks

Student-judges who inspected every room in connection with “Operation Cleanliness” found out that most of the desks had scratches and/or ink spots. One can hardly write on them without a thick sheet of paper for a pad. Outside the classrooms, some desks are placed for the students to sit on. Students really take advantage of them. They sit on top of the desks and place their muddy shoes on the seats instead. When the 220 new desks for Pasig Line will be made available for the students’ use, will they end up the way most desks go?

- ✓ **Editorials on special occasions** – those which are written to give meaning to occasions such as Christmas, Labor Day, heroes’ birthday, and other significant events.

Example: New Year Thoughts

New Year is the finale of the Yuletide Season which is accompanied by the spirit of joy and goodwill that can only be understood, never fully explained. It is enough to feel the spirit of it - that which illumines our souls – the spirit that transforms into reality that Christmas message “Peace on earth to men of goodwill.” When Jesus was sent to redeem mankind, the three kings offered Him the choicest gifts of their kingdoms and since that time, the Season has been the time to give, to receive. And man has since felt what pleasure it is to give and what joy to receive. New Year is an occasion and reason for

showing the fine sentiments that we feel. It is the time for renewal of friendships, for making bonds of kinship stronger and firmer. New Years' time is the most fitting time to bury all grudges. Between friends, neighbors, classmates, relatives, co-workers, it is the time to forget all wrongs suffered and all injuries received, to let bygones be bygones. This constitutes the real essence of the Season. Love, the greatest and finest of man's sentiments must reign in all hearts.

- ✓ **Editorials that praise or commend** – those that express appreciation for a worthy action

Example: Commitment

Determination, self-confidence and the desire to seek the truth guided our struggle to restore the campus paper. The Josephine Journal is our victory – a product of the concerted effort of the CAS-Wall Journal (CWJ) staffers and the whole CAS studentry amidst tremendous hardships we encountered along the way. We rejoice with the studentry in having a paper we have been working towards since last year and a paper we have been longing for since the CAS-JO Chronicle ceased publication. We are hoping that this paper will serve as our voice in upholding the students' interests which shall be guided by the principles of truth, justice, freedom and democracy. Together, we have won a venue to voice out our grievances, victories, opinions and ideas. Together we will uphold the freedom of speech in strengthening the unity of the studentry in responding to the call of our times. Together we will protect the rights we have acquired through our struggle. This is the commitment of the Josephine Journal.

Josephine Journal St. Joseph's College

- ✓ **Editorials that offer entertainment** – those which are written to give in a light vein, primarily to entertain readers.

Example: First Day in School

The first day in high school for pupils who have been used to having all their classes in a single room is rather like their first day in a big city crowded with different kinds of people. There is confusion and a bewildered cry never heard of before. On our own first

day in high school, we were elbowed about from one room to another, usually losing our way and arriving late. Then we were told that the section in which we had finally found our way was too large, that we must find another room on a different floor. When we got on the wrong stairway, the older pupils laughed. When bells rang for classes to begin, we would stand still; and when they rang for dismissal, we would sit still. By the end of the first day we had decided that higher learning was no good and we might as well quit. Yet, as you see, we are still here; so we must have changed our minds.

✓ Editorials of tribute

Dr. Januario Estrada, 78, considered the dean of Filipino surgeons, died yesterday, leaving behind an outstanding record of service in Philippine Medicine. Since obtaining his medical degree in 1918, Dr. Estrada had been with the Philippine General Hospital and the university in 1955. During his lifetime, he also authored scientific papers that brought new light to the practice of medicine and, more particularly, surgery. His death is a heavy loss to the medical profession.

Editorial liners – short, witty paragraphs, either serious or light.

Example: Love is...

Love is looking up to find comfort in mother's smile. It's running and kissing father's hands to deserve his package. It's thinking and dreaming about a loved one day and night. It's doing things to please the other. It's answering and writing love letters on perfumed paper. It's crying and brooding over careless words. It's rejoicing and walking on clouds on hearing sweet things. It's loving happily day by day had only five minutes left to say all we wanted to say, every telephone booth would be occupied by people trying day. Why Wait? "If we suddenly discovered," the late Christopher Morley once observed, "that we to call up other people to stammer that they loved them." Why wait until the last five minutes?

Creative to do- *Choose at least five different type of editorial from your dailies and classify them accordingly? You can just take a photograph or scan the editorial section and write which category it belongs.*