**Food Justice-Related Op-Ed Assignment**

For this assignment, you should submit:

* An op-ed on the food justice-related topic of your choice, of up to 750 words (not counting the suggested title or author line).
* A short cover memo (no longer than 1 page) to your instructor describing the audience you are trying to reach (and why) and the specific media outlet you would pitch the op-ed to (and why).

The op-ed should generally follow the stylistic advice in [Op-Ed Writing: Tips and Tricks](https://www.theopedproject.org/resources#structure), a resource from the OpEd Project. In addition, you may wish to review the packet of sample op-eds posted on Canvas, in the Writing Guidance module.

Here are a few additional requirements for your op-ed:

* Provide a suggested title, but no subtitle. Some of the sample pieces in the packet have subtitles, but ignore that for the purpose of this assignment.
* To keep things simple, do not include visuals or use any formatting tools such as headings, bullets, or boldface or italic type. Some of the examples in the packet do this, but media outlets vary in their openness to these elements.

Here is some additional guidance on how to approach this assignment.

**1. Decide what topic you want to write about.**

The only constraint is that your op-ed has to relate in some way to food justice (e.g., food access, farmworker rights, GMOs, environmental justice, food policy, local food systems, COVID-19).

It can be on any issue, local, regional, national, or global. Feel free to reference the research of others, so long as you cite it; you don’t need to have original findings to bring to the op-ed.

**2. Identify your audience.**

Figure out who you are trying to reach with your op-ed. Is it policymakers, and if so, in what institutions? Is it members of the public, and if so, what kind of people are you hoping will read and be persuaded by your piece? In other words, what would you hope to accomplish by publishing it? This analysis should appear in your cover memo.

**3. Choose a media outlet.**

Don’t feel that you have to write for one of the leading national papers, like the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post*. While they typically have the largest readership, it can be difficult to place an op-ed with them. And they’re not necessarily the best place to submit your op-ed, because they reach a broad and diffuse audience, and you may have a narrower objective.

Other options include:

* A non-US publication
* A smaller national publication (there are some examples of those in the packet)
* A regional paper, particularly if you’re writing on state or local policy or trying to influence the views of a specific federal lawmaker
* A trade publication, if you’re trying to reach people who work on a particular set of issues or in a specific sector

You do not need to research the submission requirements for the outlet you choose. Just follow the guidance provided above (750-word limit, no additional formatting, etc.).

Have fun! We look forward to reading your work.