Op-Ed Checklist

# Instructions

This checklist is to help you identify common issues in student writing. It requires you to take a careful and systematic look at your own writing. Expect this to take time! Please make sure all the items on this list have been addressed BEFORE you turn it in to Ally.

# Title

\_\_\_\_\_\_Does the essay have a relevant and catchy title?

# Thesis Statement

\_\_\_\_\_ Does my thesis statement express an arguable opinion or a unique perspective?

# Introduction

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the introduction start with a hook to grab the attention of the reader?

\_\_\_\_\_ Does the introduction help the reader to understand why this issue is important??

# Organization/Paragraphs

\_\_\_\_\_ Does each paragraph have a single idea or focus?

\_\_\_\_\_ Do each of your paragraphs connect to or support your thesis statement?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Does the order of your paragraphs make logical sense?

# Evidence

\_\_\_\_\_ Do you use multiple types of evidence in your essay?

\_\_\_\_\_ Are each of your quotes set up using one of the three methods in your class reader?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is each quote or piece of paraphrased evidence following by an MLA parenthetical citation?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is each piece of evidence from another source correctly cited in MLA format in a “Works Cited” section?

# Formatting

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the word count of your op-ed (minus the works cited) 750 to 1000 words?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the title centered?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the author’s name under the title?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is there a space between paragraphs, and no indentation at the start of a paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_ Is the font a standard font in size 11 or 12?

# Proofreading

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you spellchecked your work? I suggest using MS Word or an online spellchecker, because Google’s spellcheck is not very good.

\_\_\_\_\_ Have you read the essay out loud to yourself to catch typos and obvious errors?