



ACADEMIC WRITING 4

What's the difference between an
Op-Ed article and academic
writing?

WHY DO WE WRITE?

Those who publish in the top academic journals are considered the best in their fields

It matters for jobs in academia (university teacher, think tanks etc.)

Very few people read academic journals

Writing an Op-Ed can reach wider audiences including policy makers

HOW IS AN OP-ED DIFFERENT FROM A JOURNAL ESSAY?

1.) You must simplify your idea

2.) You have to make sure your writing is easy to understand for the average reader

3.) An Op-Ed allows you to react to current issues. Writing in a journal is a long process. Because of peer review, revision and resubmitting it can take more than a year to have something published. An Op-Ed is published almost instantly

4.) You may receive comments and feedbacks that are helpful in developing your argument. In a journal, receiving feedback is slower and you might have to follow it to be published even if you don't agree with it

5.) An Op-Ed may strengthen or publicize something you have already written in a journal – free advertising

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO FORMS

Op-Ed

- Generally short
- Appears in print (newspapers, magazines) or online
- Formal style but not too technical
- Can be subjective, but argument should be supported by facts
- Short time from writing to publishing
- Edited by the editor, editorial team, usually just for grammar

Journal article

- Long
 - Appears in print or online, depending on journal
 - Formal style, academic
 - Objective, hypothesis needs to be tested
 - Takes a long time to publish, it may be rejected by several journals
 - Usually peer-reviewed, may have to be significantly revised to be able to publish
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