

# Op-Ed Assignment

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## **UAPP 473/673: Governing Nonprofit Organizations**

### **Op-Ed Assignment**

Throughout this course, you will learn about many important topics and trends associated with the governance and leadership of the nonprofit sector. Some of these may be new to you and others may challenge your beliefs and ideas. The purpose of this assignment is to further develop your views on the nonprofit sector and what it takes to govern and lead in the sector effectively. You will be clearly articulating and supporting your views on the sector, presenting an argument on a topic associated with the governance of the nonprofit sector. While this letter or op-ed is your opinion, it is one that is supported by credible evidence from what you have learned in this class and found with some outside research.

1. What should be the topic of your op-ed? It should be class-related and I provide some suggestions below, but if you either want to tailor one of the suggestions more narrowly or have another idea (again, class-related) that you think would work, you are welcome to run it by me for approval (this is to make sure you do not go far afield).

#### **Possible Topics:**

The overhead myth

Fraud in nonprofits

Giving back donations from problematic people

The nonprofit starvation cycle

Competitive pay for nonprofit professionals

Overhead ratios

Charity rating scales

Nonprofits working with government

Tax exemption for nonprofits (for or against)

Property tax exemption for nonprofits (for or against)

Board diversity

Diversity in nonprofit leadership

Measuring nonprofit impact

Advocacy and/or lobbying by nonprofits

Student loan forgiveness for nonprofit leaders

Recruiting the next generation of nonprofit leaders

2. How long should my op-ed be? Across publications, op-eds vary in length, with some as brief as 600 words and others around 800 words. For the purposes of this assignment, target your op-ed to between 800-900 words (no more than 900, not counting references).
3. What should an op-ed cover? Please check out [the resources](#) posted in this page (which includes examples).
4. Do I need to include references? You should definitely support your argument with facts, but an op-ed follows a different format than an academic paper in terms of references. Please include a reference list of materials to support your discussion. Those references should total at least five and should include a combination of class materials and outside research.
5. How will this be graded?

Your work will be graded on the following:

- Student's op-ed follows the format of provided examples and is of appropriate length.
- Student's op-ed supports their opinion with appropriate facts and includes a reference list with the required minimum number of references.
- Student connects their discussion to the current news environment (includes an anecdote or anchoring moment to make the op-ed timely).
- Student clearly conveys to the reader why they should care about the issue. You need to think about how your op-ed could convince someone who does not immediately agree with you.
- Student acknowledges the other side of the issue.
- Student does not make factually incorrect statements.

- Op-ed has a strong final paragraph that summarizes the opinion in a convincing way.
- Op-ed has a catchy title or headline.
- Op-ed includes no grammatical or typographical errors.

Each of these components will be score as a) above proficient, b) proficient, c) needs work

## Rubric for Grading

Above Proficient (10)	Proficient (8)	Needs Work (6 and below)
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Student's op-ed follows the format of provided examples and is of appropriate length.

Student's op-ed supports their opinion with appropriate facts and includes a reference list with the required minimum number of references.

Student connects their discussion to the current news environment (includes an anecdote or anchoring moment to make the op-ed timely).

Student clearly conveys to the reader why they should care about the issue. Student acknowledges the other side of the issue. Student does not make factually incorrect statements.

Op-ed has a strong final paragraph that summarizes the opinion in a convincing way. Op-ed

has a catchy title or headline.

Op-ed includes no grammatical or typographical errors.

**Points** 60

**Submitting** a text entry box or a file upload

Due	For	Available from	Until
Nov 8, 2020	Everyone	-	-

+ [Rubric](#)