

Voice of San Diego Op-Ed Requirements and Guidelines

The goal of our op-ed section is to complement our editorial coverage by providing thoughtful, provocative commentary on the subjects and issues we cover.

Requirements

We strongly prefer pieces that expand on issues being covered by Voice of San Diego's editorial staff, so that readers' first introduction to an issue is not through an opinion piece.

We do not publish ghostwritten op-eds; only the person or people directly involved in writing an op-ed should appear on the byline. If an op-ed is submitted by someone other than the author, we'll require direct confirmation from the author or authors that they wrote the piece.

Please include a short, 1-2 sentence bio for the author, emphasizing any connection to or expertise in the subject matter.

We only consider op-eds that have been submitted to us exclusively and have not been previously published elsewhere.

Submissions longer than 800 words are not likely to be accepted.

You'll receive a response from us if we're interested in using the piece. If you don't hear back from us within five days, it's safe to assume we're not able to accommodate the submission.

What Makes a Good Op-Ed

Timeliness is key. If you have a perspective on an upcoming decision or issue in the news, that makes it more attractive.

The best pieces articulate a very specific idea, argument or message. (For example, "vacation rentals are bad" is pretty broad and generic. But "the current proposal to regulate vacation rentals [doesn't do enough to hold platforms that violate the rules accountable](#)" is much more specific and focused.)

Use plain, simple language and avoid jargon and acronyms that wouldn't be familiar to the average person.

You don't need to have an important title or an advanced degree to write an op-ed piece – everyone is an expert on their own lived experience. You should communicate why you're well positioned to discuss the topic and what personal connection you have to it. If you have gone through an experience that illuminates an issue we cover – whether you're [a graduate student struggling to afford housing](#), someone whose family has been [directly impacted by a new law](#) or [a teacher adjusting to distance learning](#) – we want to hear about it.

To submit a piece of commentary for consideration, email sara.libby@voiceofsandiego.org.