

SUBMITTING AN OP-ED ON EARLY LEARNING



Publishing an op-ed can be a great way to spread awareness about early learning, link kids' issues to relevant news, and add a new voice to the statewide conversation about early childhood education. We hope these tips will be helpful as you work to develop and publish an op-ed in your local newspaper.

- 1. Keep up to date on news and capitalize on opportunities to link in early learning.** Have you noticed recent coverage on workforce issues in your area? Or poor outcomes in your local school district? Take this opportunity to share your understanding of how early learning and development are linked to these issues.
- 2. Craft a well-written, clear, and to-the-point message.** Op-eds are meant to offer new and interesting perspectives on community issues. Need a place to start? [Check out one of our resource fact sheets](#). Be sure to include a clear argument, explain why readers should care about this issue, and offer specific recommendations.
- 3. Ensure your message is easy for non-experts to understand.** Even though you may know the ins-and-outs of our early learning system, readers likely do not. Stay focused on the high-level issues and avoid using jargon.
- 4. Use your own voice.** You want to make sure your submission is free of any spelling or grammatical errors, but don't feel confined to a stiff writing style--let your personal voice show through your writing.
- 5. Submit your op-ed (and follow up)!** Once your op-ed is complete, send it to a friend or colleague to read through one last time. To submit, call your local newspaper or check out their website for instructions. Be sure to follow up a few days after submitting to ensure your piece was received.

Have additional questions about drafting and submitting an op-ed? Contact Groundwork Ohio's Communications & Policy Associate at jhohner@groundworkohio.org

