

For this assignment, find an editorial, *not* a news article, which is fairly long and detailed, in English, and not from a source published in the PRC. This assignment may work better if you find an editorial whose main idea(s) you disagree with. The list below suggests several sources to search from across the political spectrum.

Once you've found an interesting editorial, write a 4-page paper including two pages of critical evaluation (i.e. what are the strongest and weakest points in it, do you agree or disagree overall, and why?) and two pages explaining the methods you used in making the critical evaluation (i.e. how did you come to your critical conclusions?).

Note that you do not need to have any special critical thinking skills to do this assignment, and you will get a 100-point, perfect score just for completing it. Its purpose is to serve as a benchmark for work you do throughout the semester, to show how and whether your thoughts and analytical skills change and improve.

In December, we will return to this editorial, write a new critical evaluation of it, and compare the two versions. So, again, make sure the editorial is interesting enough to you that you'll want to read it carefully, many times! If it's too short or too simple, you won't have very much to analyze, but if its details are too minute and esoteric, you might lose interest (and we won't enjoy reading your work as much either!).

REQUIREMENTS: (SEE ABOVE) Also, somewhere in your analysis, give the author's name and the date it was written. Include a link to the editorial and a bibliographic entry for it, as if it were in a research paper. If you use any outside sources in your analysis, cite them as well.

This assignment will be due in our next session of class on Tues., Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

Recommended websites/publications with editorials not requiring a VPN:

Al Jazeera ([www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/](http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/) )  
The Atlantic ([www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com) )  
Common Dreams ([www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org) ) (See “Views” section on right side of page)  
MoveOn.org ([www.moveon.org](http://www.moveon.org) )  
The National Review ([www.nationalreview.com](http://www.nationalreview.com) )  
The Washington Post ([www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/) )  
Washington Times ([www.washingtontimes.com/opinion/](http://www.washingtontimes.com/opinion/) )  
Taipei Times ([www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials](http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/editorials) )

Recommended websites/publications with editorials requiring a VPN:

The Economist ([www.economist.com](http://www.economist.com) )  
New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com) )  
Wall Street Journal ([www.wsj.com](http://www.wsj.com) )  
The Weekly Standard ([www.weeklystandard.com](http://www.weeklystandard.com) )  
(and many more! If you find an editorial in another source not listed here, great! But you may want to have us check to make sure it works for the assignment.)