

AMETHIST Op-Ed Writing Template

Op-Ed Questions -- Answer these questions with a few sentences each. The idea is to create blocks of copy that can be fashioned into an op-ed of 700-800 words.

1. What makes you a good person to write this? Why do you care so much? Make it personal if you can
2. Is there an anecdote or human-interest story from your personal experience that you could tell here to make your point?
3. What makes this subject especially timely? Why write this now? (Could be an event, a bill, a big trend, new research, a case of a prominent person and more)
4. Give a factual summary of the problem, its scale, what harm is being caused? # of people affected and its growth Why does it matter to patients, policymakers & the public at large?
5. What are one or two things you know about this topic that might surprise people or at least educate them?
6. What do you most want to change? What three to four recommendations do you have? Be bold and specific and make sure these recommendations are aimed at people who can actually fix this problem.
7. What obstacles stand in the way of progress/solution? What arguments do these folks make and why are they wrong?
8. Closing: Who is your audience: Patients? Practitioners? Policy-maker(s)? What would motivate them to move in your direction? (Could be facts or emotional appeal).