

OP-ED PHRASE SHEET

Many newspapers or news websites contain an op-ed section. This section gives people a public space to voice concerns they have on an issue that affects their town, state, or even country. A good op-ed piece supports the opinions of the author with facts from sources such as reports, news articles, or books. The ability to use facts from many sources to support an idea or opinion is very important in American English writing. This use of sources to support an idea is the foundation of the writing students do in American universities as well.

Using this sheet, help your students take facts from the [Celebrate World Oceans Day](#) video, the *World Oceans Day* reading sheet, and the *World Oceans Day* word search and use them to support their own opinion. This writing exercise will give them valuable practice in English writing structures.

Claim	Fact	Opinion Phrase	Opinion
Oceans help feed many people.	Philippe Cousteau states that one billion people rely on the ocean for their daily food.	I strongly believe ...	that we must protect this important source of food.
We all rely on the oceans.	According to the Celebrate World Oceans Day video, oceans provide a majority of our oxygen.	In my opinion ...	when we save the oceans, we protect the air we breathe.
Our litter on land hurts the ocean.	The website NOAA.gov writes that plastic waste kills one million sea birds a year.	It seems to me that ...	if we stop pollution on land, we can also save the oceans

Useful Support Phrases

The following phrases in **bold** can be used to introduce facts from a source:

- **According to the** World Oceans Day website ...
- The NOAA.gov website **writes that** ...
- Philippe Cousteau **states that** ...

Useful Opinion Phrases

The following phrases can be used to introduce the author's opinion:

- I think ...
- As far as I'm concerned ...
- I strongly believe ...
- According to ...
- It seems to me that ...
- In my opinion ...
- From my point of view ...
- As far as I understand / can see ...