

Writing: Editorial**Practice**

When you use written words to change people's thinking or influence their actions, you are using persuasive writing. One type of persuasive writing is an **editorial**, a brief essay published in a newspaper, magazine, or Web site. An editorial states and defends an opinion on a current issue. An effective editorial includes these elements:

- a strong statement that clearly states the writer's opinion on an issue
- strong evidence to support that opinion, including facts and statistics
- a response to possible opposing arguments
- persuasive language to sway readers, including emotional appeals and words with positive or negative connotations

A Circle the letter of the best answer to each question about an editorial favoring the building of a teen center.

1. Which is the strongest statement of opinion regarding a teen center?
 - A. It would probably be nice to have a teen center somewhere in town.
 - B. The nearby city of Oakdale has a very attractive and busy teen center.
 - C. Studies show that teens often benefit from organized activities.
 - D. Our town needs a teen center—now!
2. Which statement supports the writer's opinion with a fact or statistic?
 - A. People just don't seem to understand the needs of young people.
 - B. The Oakdale teen center's computer workshops have helped teens develop job skills.
 - C. Some students may not want a teen center at first, but they'll catch on.
 - D. If you don't think that a teen center is needed, you're wrong.
3. Which statement best responds to an opposing view about a teen center?
 - A. My research shows that building a teen center will *not* cost a lot.
 - B. People who are against the teen center are stupid.
 - C. A teen center could provide athletic programs and useful homework help.
 - D. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that a teen center would be good.

B On a separate sheet of paper, write a brief editorial expressing and supporting an opinion about a current issue at school or in your community. Be sure to include the elements listed at the top of this page.