**Editorial Writing**

*Writing an editorial is super easy! Usually in the newspaper, there is an editorial written by the editor of the paper. Here are some facts about it.*

1. It is always about a very current issue. Something relevant. It isn’t about old news.
2. It is about something significant: Political, economic, social and so on. It is usually about an issue which affects the majority of the people, if not the whole country.
3. It explains the situation at the given moment.
4. It explains the different viewpoints that are popular.
5. It offers the writer’s opinion about the particular issue.

*What about the STYLE of writing you ask? Well, the genre of the ‘editorial’ demands a very high standard of language. (Those days parents made kids read the editorial because it is supposed to contain impeccable and eloquent language).*

1. Formal register.
2. Professional – no cheap humour.
3. Well-balanced: No ranting or over-emotional bosh.
5. Logical – Coherent and Cogent argument. Your argument has to make sense. So, you need to have a sharp mind which has developed critical thinking and writing skills.
6. Keep sentences as clear as possible. Avoid excessive imagery or figures of speech. Remember, it is not descriptive writing. It’s about presenting an argument.
7. Clearly state your opinion, and then go on to justify and prove it; and make it convincing. Even though you may explain different sides of the case, the editorial must very clearly state the stance it takes.

**Let’s take some examples shall we?**

1. Commencing school even when there is a risk of contracting Covid.
2. (School Newspaper) Introducing a casual Friday for students and teachers.
3. (School Newspaper) Should the school allocate funds to build a large religious statue or a new educational facility?
4. Sri Lankan Government should be more active in protecting the environment.
5. Should the death penalty be implemented to deter criminal activity?

The above are some of the themes that can come for an editorial type of question.
Here’s an example editorial for you!

The school has received a donation of 1 million rupees by a group of alumni. The school board has suggested two projects which are a) to build a large religious statue at the entrance of the school and b) to invest the money on building a new educational facility. As the editor of the school magazine, write an editorial, explaining the situation, differing sides, and your opinion on the matter. (200-300 words).

Empathy Through Education

Our school has been blessed with a generous gift of one million rupees! It has been given by a group of alumni, and the school authorities have proposed two projects, out of which only one will be selected eventually. The first one is to erect a statue of a religious figure at the entrance to the school. It will be quite a large structure, imposing and intimidating; perhaps even inspiring. The other project is an educational facility which would enhance the learning of students.

There are those who say that the statue would be the important project as religion and belief is the crux of everything we do. It affects behaviour, character and consequentially, our living conditions. But is a statue the best way to inculcate positive behaviour in people? If the purpose of the statue is to create empathy in students and teachers, is that the most effective way to do that? I think it would be a waste of time, space, money and energy.

Building a facility which enables more students to engage in their education will not only benefit them in terms of their academics, but if used in an effective manner, these facilities could be used to teach them empathy and conflict resolution. When they are able to receive a quality education, their living conditions will improve significantly. When conditions improve, people are less prone to engaging in misbehavior. Education is power; skills and ability will ensure more personal satisfaction and less criminal activity. Therefore, you can easily see why enhancing the education experience is the important project at this time.

Task

The President of your nation has decided to commence the school term even though there is a high risk of Covid-19 spreading. He has argued that the future cannot be built without school functioning regularly as online school is not efficient and because there are many students who have no access to online education. Write an editorial for your school magazine on the issue. (200-300 words).