

## Evidence-based Writing

Choose a column and/or other point-of-view writing about a topic that interests you and on a subject you know and care about.

- After reading the column or other point of view, conduct research to answer any questions that you have. Note the ways the writer verifies facts and/or supports his/her claims.
- Outline your response listing why you consider the columnist or point-of-view writer right or wrong. Use the chart below:

• XXX is right	• XXX is wrong

- After preparing the outline, write a response to what you chose.
  - Use active verbs to express your thinking.
  - Limit your argument to the two/three most important points you want to share.
  - Do not let anger color your response; use logic, supported with examples to convince your reader to agree with your position or point of view.
  - Be respectful.

*Cynthia McFadden, January 21, 2014 (adapted)*