OPINION EDITOR

FALL 2016

The Opinion Editor is responsible for maintaining a page that allows for a multitude of voices across the Whitman community. The Opinion Editor holds weekly meetings with columnists, and gives each column both edits and feedback to boost the strength of the columnists’ theses. The Opinion Editor also solicits guest columns, organizes point-counterpoints as well as occasional themed sections. The Opinion Editor is also responsible for writing teasers as well as headlines for the Opinion section. Experience editing and writing columns is recommended. One should always keep up to date on current and campus events, as well professional opinion pieces.

Each editor is responsible for soliciting applications and hiring a team of writers at the beginning of the semester as well as mid-semester, as necessary.

Experience working for a production is important for this position. It helps to understand the production schedule and have experience editing people’s work. Other important skills include creativity, time management, organization, being detail-oriented, good leadership, communication, and being able to solve problems.

Approximate time commitment: 10 hours per week

The Opinion Editor should have the following skills:

* Strong writing ability
* Familiarity with journalistic writing, especially opinion columns and editorials
* Responsibility and self-accountability
* Ease talking to new people, confidence in interview situations
* Strong phone and email skills
* Awareness of news, blogs & current events

Please fill out the questions below and submit with two writing samples to wire@whitman.edu by midnight on Monday, May 1st. Candidates who have previously held an editorial position on *The Wire* may skip questions 1 and 6, and do not need to submit writing samples.

Name:

Graduating Year:

Email address:

1. Please describe any relevant writing or editing experience you have. Have you worked on a publication similar to *The Wire*? What experience do you have in a leadership position?
2. If you have previously held an editorial position on *The Wire*, what would you do differently this semester? If you have never held an editorial position on *The Wire*, why are you interested in being an editor?
3. What are your goals for *The Wire* this year? What would you like to see the paper do more of, or do better or differently?
4. What goals do you have for the opinion section?
5. Please pitch 3 guest column ideas. Explain how you will solicit a diverse group of opinions while maintaining regular columnists.
6. Please describe your ability to meet deadlines and work under pressure.
7. What other activities will you be involved in this semester, and how much of a weekly time commitment are these activities? How heavy is your academic courseload for this semester?

Please include two writing samples, preferably of journalistic writing.