

The Rocky Mountain Collegian Opinion Editor

The Opinion Editor is a leader who oversees and directs the operations of the Collegian opinion desk. The Opinion Editor maintains a presence in the newsroom and is engaged in and dedicated to the overall production of content for the Collegian's digital and print products. The position requires a commitment of 15-20 hours per week of work-related duties.

An ideal candidate exhibits the following qualities:

- Possesses a strong understanding of the role of an opinion section in a news-media organization.
- Possesses a strong grasp on micro- and macro- editing; preference to candidates who have previously taken copy editing, but not required.
- Has a basic understanding of Adobe InDesign and design principles.
- Possesses a basic understanding of press-specific Colorado law and how it relates to opinions published by a news media corporation.
- Has a strong understanding of journalist ethics and its application to opinion content.
- Effectively balances time commitments outside of work.
- Prioritizes teamwork to maintain an inclusive and professional culture.
- Strong communication skills and an ability to make decisions under pressure.

Main Responsibilities

- Plans content with and in response to the news section.
- Plans for and communicates with the appropriate people to establish a strong digital presence by organizing multimedia coverage and packages.
- Encourages and nurtures new columnists and coaches skills.
- Pitches ideas for editorials and drafts these pieces with the Editor-in-Chief.
- Determines which Letters to the Editor will be printed, and micro-edits them to conform to standards.
- Educates readers and staff on the difference between news, columns, editorials and letters to the editor.
- Communicates frequently with managing editors about problems that may disrupt production.
- Actively and continuously seek out new and underrepresented voices, story ideas and readers on campus and in the community.
- Work with OnSpec, SVP and Collegian video to create cohesive video elements to accompany stories.
- Encourage and require reporters to take photos and short videos on assignment when appropriate.

Managerial Responsibilities

- Holds weekly planning meetings for the desk.
- Attends daily budget meetings to communicate effectively with the Editorial Board.
- Keeps columnists accountable for content production through the implemented feedback system and through direct communication.
- Responds quickly to feedback and criticism, and adjusts for the success of the team.
- Communicates with the design team to create effective visual content to accompany columns.
- Plans an appropriate amount of content and takes responsibility for the desk.
- Completes payroll for the staff in a timely and accurate manner.
- Edits one-on-one with columnists or provides feedback remotely on Camayak or by phone.
- Responds quickly to corrections and reader criticism to ensure strong relationships across the University and within the city.
- Professionally communicates with readers who submit letters to the editor.

Compensation: the Editor-in-Chief and the CEO of Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation will negotiate compensation with the Opinion Editor. Compensation will be hourly and paid through University merit work-study.

To apply: Submit a resume, cover letter and three relevant clips to fczarnecki@collegian.com and afleskes@collegian.com with the subject line: "Collegian 2019-2020 Application: Opinion Editor" by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 28, 2019. Interviews will be scheduled and held by the 2019-2020 Editor-in-Chief and Managing Editor and the 2018-2019 Opinion Editor between March 29 and April 3. Be prepared to answer questions regarding the attributes and responsibilities listed above.