



Writing Op-Eds: Reflections on My Personal Experience

Fahad Razak

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- Provincial Lead, General Medicine, Ontario Health
- Scientific Director, Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table

How do I approach Op- Eds?

Why do I want to write this?

Professional Expertise:

- clinician, healthcare policy, scientist

Educational Background:

- medicine, engineering, epidemiology/public health

Family/Personal Experience:

- racialized, disabled family member

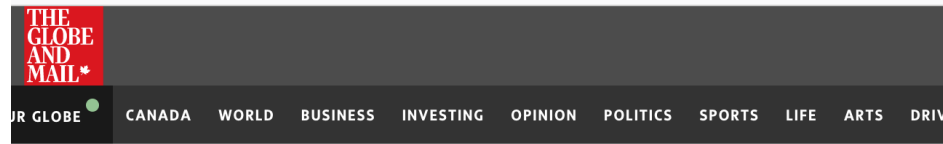
Who can I work with?

- Professional colleagues, content experts, students

Where can I publish this?

- What kind of general readership?
- Long versus short piece?

Examples: Health Policy



OPINION

How hospitals can increase capacity to cope with coronavirus

≡ SECTIONS 🔍 SEARCH



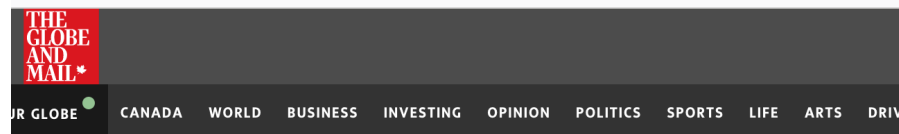
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OPINION

Outdated data infrastructure is stifling Canadian innovation in health

By FAHAD RAZAK, AMOL VERMA, AND ANDREAS LAUPACIS SEPTEMBER 18, 2019



OPINION

Let's make Canada a global leader in COVID-19 treatments

Examples: Personal

OPINION

Our pandemic response must stop overlooking people with disabilities

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'Extremist' hatred reveals Canada's darker, unsettling narrative

What we say behind closed doors matters

By **Fahad Razak** Contributors
Lisa Berkman

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HEALTH & WELLNESS

If you're South Asian, take steps now to prevent a heart attack

Examples: Converting Research to Op-Eds



OPINION

The best available science supports allowing family and caregivers into hospitals, not restricting them

FAHAD RAZAK, LAVEENA MUNSHI AND GERALD EVANS



Examples: “The Long Read”

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OPINION



As COVID-19's third wave recedes in Canada, what's next? Six steps to save summer

Opinion: While wide vaccine coverage gives us a safety net for the fall of 2021, mutation risks are real, and complacency could lead to a repeat. Here's what Canada needs to do

By Fahad Razak, Arthur Slutsky and David Naylor
May 20, 2021

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We should debate the best COVID treatments. But let's eschew revisionist history

FAHAD RAZAK, ARTHUR SLUTSKY AND DAVID NAYLOR

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Looking to a post-pandemic Canada: What can we learn from the U.K.?

Opinion: How can society reopen safely with the rise of the dangerous Delta variant? We can again use the UK as a crystal ball, but this time the images are unclear.

By Fahad Razak, Arthur Slutsky and David Naylor

General Advice



Find your style



Read the Op-Ed
Section



Work with people
who make your
writing better



Most times you need
to work quickly



Be succinct, “less is
more”

General Advice

Working with an editor

- Building a relationship takes time
- Lots to learn from rejections and edits

Impact on career

- Op Eds get a broad and distinct readership than academic work
- Can lead to interesting conversations and opportunities

Working it into a research calendar

- Think on ideas and build a framework
- Work quickly when writing

General Advice

Is it Op-Ed worthy?

- Never know till you try!
- Rejection is part of the process

Including theory in your writing

- Rarely included in the way you would for a specialist audience
- But, broad concepts can be very transferable

Promotion and career advancement

- Op-Eds don't seem to be credited the same as peer-reviewed publications
- But, they can be a form of “soft power”
- Also, can be cited as knowledge translation or “Creative Professional Activity”

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