

Layering exercise: Your Op-Ed pieces

Before you begin, read some op-eds online. Do some safari hunting. Next, add layers 1-4 (required).

1. Headline (pps. 96-100, esp. 99-100 for rules)
2. Deckhead
3. Hyperlink(s) (pps. 108-110)
4. Pullout quote (p. 101)

Next, consider the following (not required, but only where appropriate):

- Subhead?
- Bulleted list? (pps. 104-06)
- Short graphs
- Locator map?
- Visual? Photo, graphic, chart, etc.? Your headshot?
- Related content? (everyone else's op-ed, for example) and how to present it

Let's create these in Dreamweaver, or, if you're comfortable and familiar with a blogging platform, publish to your blog. If you want to go the blog route but don't have a blog, let me know and we'll set one up for you.

The Opinion Pages | EDITORIAL

The Roadblock to Sentencing Reform

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD FEB. 17, 2015

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For more than a year, members of Congress have been doing [a lot of talking](#) about the need to broadly reform harsh federal sentencing laws, which are a central factor in the explosion of the federal prison population. It's an overdue conversation, and one of the few in which Democrats and Republicans [find some agreement](#) — but, so far, they have nothing to show for it.

In the last session, senators introduced three bipartisan bills. Two proposed “front end” reforms, like reducing or eliminating ridiculously long mandatory minimum sentences for some drug crimes. The other focused on “back end” fixes, like increasing opportunities for good-time credit to allow certain prisoners early release.

None of the bills [got anywhere](#), but it was encouraging to see all three reintroduced in the new Republican-led Senate. At least it was until they ran into a roadblock in the shape of Senator Charles Grassley, Republican of Iowa. Mr. Grassley, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, wields great power over any sentencing legislation.