

SPECIAL EDITION EXTRA!



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

EFFECTIVE

PERSUASIVE

TIMELY

One of the most read sections of any newspaper

YOUR WORDS MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE!

Letters to the Editor (LTEs) are among the most-read sections of any newspaper, popular with the public, community leaders, advertisers, and policymakers. They can sway public opinion, demonstrate community support (or opposition), and reach decision-makers quickly, often faster than formal advocacy channels.

A well-crafted LTE will help shape the conversation, counter misinformation, and keep important issues in the spotlight. Writing letters also builds connections and boosts morale in these challenging times.

How to Write an Effective Letter

Be Timely - respond to something recently published or in the news. Stay Focused - make one clear point per letter.

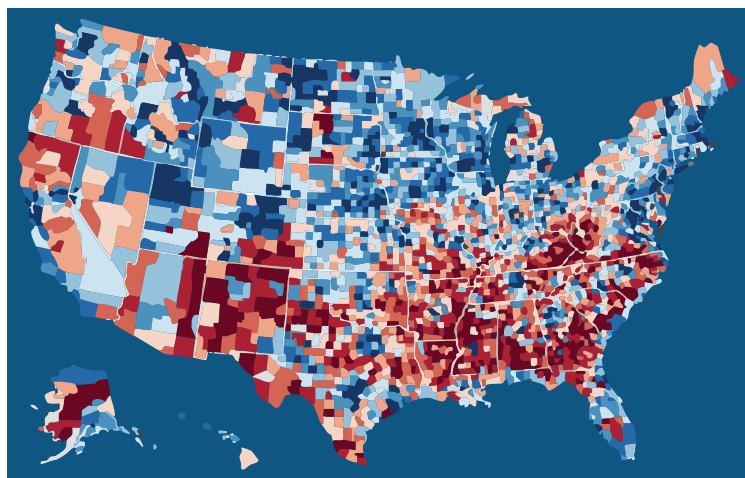
Try using a hook - a strong opening line that grabs attention. Make it personal - share a personal story or lived experience. Tell the truth. Be respectful - firm opinions work best when paired with civil language.

Keep it short - most LTEs are 150-200 words. Check your target newspaper's criteria and word limit. Name Names. If relevant, mention elected officials or organizations.

Both praise and accountability matter. End with a memorable line or a call to action.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION



Key Newspapers in Key Locations

For most papers, search “town/city,” “newspaper.” Check the “Opinion” or “Contact Us” sections for instructions and criteria.

Target areas that matter: key congressional races, pending legislation, communities directly impacted by your issue, or where shifting public opinion could influence policy.

Many newspapers accept out-of-state LTEs, especially if you explain your connection or why the issue matters to their readers. Consider writing a letter asking the editor to print more letters from outside the area.

Spread the Word

Share your letters, post on social media, send email to friends, and encourage others to do the same. Share this guide and invite friends to write their own LTEs. Consider asking community or advocacy groups to submit letters on one topic (varied voices, similar message).

Keep the momentum. One letter can inspire a wave of responses. Follow up with new letters when the topic resurfaces. Start your own LTE Committee! It's a great way to connect with neighbors, friends, and others. It can even be fun!

WE WILL PREVAIL AND SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY