



We the Resistance Guide to:

Writing a Letter-to-the-Editor

How long is it going to take? About an hour.

How difficult is it? Medium-level difficulty; you'll have to do some research and some writing.

What's the impact I'll have? Letters-to-the-Editor (LTEs) are great tools for creating awareness -- and showing members of Congress that people are paying attention to an issue.

Most newspapers publish letters from readers who live in the region. A short letter can have a big impact, as most members of Congress pay attention to local news. Not to mention: LTEs are FREE media for the issue you care about.

Here's a step-by-step guide on how to get your letter noticed:

1. **Always check the paper's guidelines for LTEs!** A surefire way to get your letter rejected is not paying attention to their submission guidelines. These are usually found on the editorial page and will give you guidance on word counts and how to submit. The easiest way to find the guidelines is to do an Internet search: "how to submit a letter to the editor to X newspaper."
2. **Check out what's already being published.** Read a few existing LTEs to get a sense for what kind of stuff makes it in -- that'll help you craft your letter. You'll also want to make sure that your letter is relevant to the newspaper, so see if you can write your letter as a response to an article or another opinion piece.
3. **Keep it simple!** Short and to-the-point is what often gets published, so try to avoid long-winded arguments and keep your sentences succinct. Make your case in strong, clear language -- and if you have a legislative ask (that your member of Congress support or oppose a piece of legislation, for instance) make it in your letter -- they may see it! Use NWLC talking points!
4. **Name drop.** The Senator or elected official you want to reach likely gets a round-up every morning of the news articles that he or she is mentioned in. By calling on your elected officials by name in your LTE, you can help make sure they are reading it and getting your message.
5. **You guessed it...make it personal.** A compelling personal story is always good to include when trying to influence decision makers. If you have a personal stake in the issue, share it in the LTE, but remember to keep it short!
6. **Reread what you wrote -- or get a proofer!** Make sure you give your letter a close read after you've written it, or better yet, find a friend or family member to proof it for you.

We the Resistance are committed to working together to halt the dangerous agenda advanced by the Trump administration and the leaders in Congress -- to protect our rights and freedoms and to defend the most vulnerable among us.



A fresh sets of eyes can help catch run-on sentences and grammatical errors that you might miss.*

7. **Share your contact info.** Most newspapers will confirm that you still want your LTE published, so make sure you provide up-to-date contact information with your submission.

*See what we did there? Did you catch our error?

Now what?

That's it, for now! But if you're ready to roll up your sleeves and do a little more, check out our guides on calling your member of Congress or attending a Congressperson's events.

We the Resistance are committed to working together to halt the dangerous agenda advanced by the Trump administration and the leaders in Congress – to protect our rights and freedoms and to defend the most vulnerable among us.