



How to Write a Letter to the Editor

A letter to the editor enables your voice to be heard and motivates your member of Congress to act. Letters can reward a member of Congress for something good they have done or express your disapproval and urge them to change course. Elected officials often take notice when they are mentioned by name in a local paper. Use the acronym RAFT to help structure your letter:

Respond to Recent Reports

Find a news article or story that relates to the issue. Make sure you're responding to a recent story or topic – no more than a few days old.

Ask for Action

Make a specific ask to specific policymakers. Mention your members of Congress by name to make sure they see the letter.

Find the Facts

Illustrate your argument with one or two facts. Statistics can be helpful in moderation, but too many statistics can be confusing.

Tie it Together

Bring in your personal connection or moral approach to the issue. State connections to the community that are relevant to your points.

Sample Letter to the Editor

The United States is the greatest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world. Other countries are already leading the movement to address climate change. We also have a moral obligation to demonstrate leadership and join the international community.

I was one of 500 young adults asking Congress to address the climate emergency by adopting federal laws to reach net-zero emissions by 2050. I called on my members of Congress to cosponsor the Climate Action Rebate Act (H.R. 4051/S. 2284).

This legislation would place a strong price on carbon emissions and invest the revenue back into the communities that need it most. If enacted, by 2030 it could cut carbon emissions by 55%. By 2050 it could cut them by 100%.

Climate change disproportionately affects low-income and communities of color. But we must also ensure that these communities don't bear the cost of a price on carbon. That's why I'm calling on my legislators (*included their name*) to cosponsor this legislation.

Draft Your Letter to the Editor

Use the box below to draft your letter. Remember that most newspapers prefer letters that are less than 250 words. Make sure to personalize your letter to your experience, tie it back to where you live, and include the names of your members of Congress.

For directions on how to submit your letter to a newspaper, visit fcnl.org/lte-slw