

WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

How to make world-changing headlines in your community

Submit a “Letter to the Editor” to get the attention of your community and members of Congress about important issues that impact the world’s poor and explain how we can help make a difference. Newspapers will often run pieces written by grassroots activists, especially if the article is well-written, timely, and has a local angle. However, you should check with your newspaper before submitting your letter, as different papers often have unique guidelines for submissions from community members.

Here are a few tips for writing your letter to the editor:

- **Keep it short.** A letter to the editor should be 150-300 words.
- **Make it locally relevant.** Newspapers publish information they believe is pertinent to their readers, so your piece is more likely to be published when it is tied to a current issue or local event.
- **Mention your members of Congress.** You can thank them or encourage them to take action in response to the issue you write about. They’ll pay more attention if they see their name!
- **Make it personal.** While your letter should include facts about the issue, it should also reflect your personality. Explain why the subject is relevant to the writer and the reader.
- **Learn from other published pieces.** Check out these examples of letters to the editor published by advocates just like you in [the Chicago Tribune](#), [the Portland Press Herald](#) and [the Austin Statesman](#) (it’s the third one down).

Don’t forget to include your first and last name, your title/World Vision Advocate, and your city when you submit. The editor will send you a note to let you know if they’re going to run your letter or if they have any questions or edits. Keep us posted so we can support you and share your success!

ARE YOU READY TO GET STARTED?

We have draft letters that you can personalize on several global poverty issues, and we can help you select the most relevant or strategic topic to write about. Contact us at advocate@worldvision.org to get started!