

What is a letter to the editor?

A letter to the editor (LTE) is a brief opinion piece, usually less than 300 words, that anyone can write and submit to a newspaper. Sometimes, LTEs are written in response to a specific article. Other times, they are proactive stances on an issue.

LTEs are an impactful advocacy tool because they're widely read by elected officials, their staff, and other decision makers.

Tips for writing

1. Keep it brief and get right to the point

Remember, you only have 300 words or fewer to get your opinion across, so be concise and lead with your main point. If you need help or inspiration, reference our talking points below (or reach out to our team!).

If you're writing in response to a specific article, reference it right away. Your first sentence could be something like "I'm writing to voice my opposition to [ARTICLE TITLE] by [NAME], which ran on [DATE]."

2. Be authoritative, stick to the facts, and include a personal connection

Remember, you have something important to say and are the leading authority on your own lived experience. Talk about what the issue means to you and your community.

3. Identify yourself

After your letter, make sure to include the following information about yourself:

- Your full name
- Your full street address and phone number (this will not be published, but many outlets use it to verify that you are a local resident)
- Any other relevant information (for example, if you are a solar owner or work in the industry, that would be a good thing to include here!)

4. Follow the outlet's instructions for submission

Some news outlets have online forms for submitting op-eds; others prefer to receive them via email. We've included submission instructions for a few major news outlets below. If you're submitting to an outlet you don't see here, you can usually find this information on the outlet's website.

5. Don't get discouraged!

Sometimes your LTE won't be published. That's completely normal and par for the course. You can always ask for feedback and try again!

Minnesota News Outlets

- [Star Tribune](#). Submit using [this form](#). Limit 250 words.
- [Pioneer Press](#). Email letters@pioneerpress.com
- [The Minnesota Daily](#). Email eic@mndaily.com. Limit 400 words.