



NARAL
Pro-Choice America Foundation

How to Write a Letter to the Editor

Letters to the editor are a powerful tool that allow you to influence readers of a newspaper, journal, or magazine by responding to an article or editorial printed by the publication. Remember that your letter can discuss any of the broad range of pro-choice issues, including honest sex education and access to birth control.

Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor and Getting It Printed

- Refer to the recent article or letter that appeared in that publication and structure your comments as a response. Reference the title, date, and author of the original piece in the opening sentence.
- Find out the word limit for your paper. Most papers limit letter to 100-200 words. The shorter it is, the more likely the paper will publish it.
- Don't send identical letters to multiple newspapers. Most papers insist that the letters you send are "exclusive" to them. If you want to submit articles to multiple papers, use the same concepts and vary the letter slightly.
- Don't forget to include your address and phone number! Most publications will call to confirm that you wrote the letter before they publish it.