

Notes/Tips to write Letters to the Editor

- Start with this idea: EPIC
 - o E - Engage the audience
 - o P - State the problem
 - o I - Inform on the solution
 - o C - Call to action.
- Note that each newspaper has a specific word limit. Some allow longer letters
- Select a topic that resonates for you and tell a story about your candidate/issue
- Personalize your letter. Why do you want the candidate/issue
- Compare and contrast candidates/issues
- Look at examples and provide your own twist.
- Don't mention the opposition's name – use “her/his opponent.”
- Make references to the newspaper. While some papers print general commentary, many will only print letters that refer to a specific article. Here are some examples of easy ways to refer to articles in your opening sentence:
 - o I was disappointed to see that The Post's May 18 editorial "School Vouchers Are Right On" omitted some of the key facts in the debate.
 - o I strongly disagree with (author's name) narrow view on women's reproductive rights. ("Name of Op-Ed," date)
 - o I am deeply saddened to read that Congressman Doe is working to roll back affirmative action. ("Title of Article," date)"¹

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¹ ACLU “Tips on Writing Letters to the Editor,” <https://www.aclu.org/other/tips-writing-letter-editor>

The Columbian

To write a letter to the editor go to the columbian.com website.

Click on the three bars upper left page and click on Customer Service and scroll down to bottom of page, click on 'send letter to the editor' Then complete and 'submit' letter when done.

Limit letters to 200 words (100 words if endorsing or opposing a political candidate or upcoming ballot measure) and allow 30 days between submissions. Include name, address and daytime phone number for verification; only the name and home town will be published.

Example letter

Can we agree that we want to live and retire in a community that is safe and healthy? That's why we moved here to a new residential community in Clark County. We oppose excessive noise, pollution and health hazards that affect us and our environment. Now, an intrusive Knife River concrete batch plant that loads raw materials into large numbers of cement trucks, and crushes cement is being proposed less than a mile away. The release of silica dust in the air and trucks will add to our air pollution.

The plant will run 24/7 at 7511 NE 101st, Vancouver. The noise and pollution will affect our quality of life (including school-aged children and elderly people - many with immune and respiratory illnesses); and the nearby wetlands will be polluted.

The zoning for the property was changed in March, 2021, from Light Industrial to Railroad Industrial to accommodate heavy industrial uses such as this one, despite being previously refused (twice!) by the Clark County Council. Let your County Councilors know this plant is not acceptable and that Knife River needs to find another location. Councilors, please zone this land back to Light Industrial and safeguard our future!

Charles Polacek

(Submitted on 2/4/2023)