

Jubilee USA Network Media Kit

2. Tips for Placing Letters to the Editor (LTE)

1. Check the word limit and submission rules for your local paper. Most LTEs are short and concise – around 150 to 250 words. Most do not contain more than three sentences in each paragraph.
2. Your letter has the best chance of being published if it is in reaction to a story or column in the paper. Respond as quickly as you can.
3. Read the LTE page of the paper where you are submitting your letter. You may get a sense of the style of letters that get published. It is usually encouraged on the LTE page.
4. Your personal experiences are always worth adding. So are any details to localize the issue.
5. The LTE page is one of the first things that policymakers read. A LTE shows that an issue is of concern in the community.

Sample Letter to the Editor

To The Editor
Lake Wobegone Times

Your article on [global poverty/instability of regions leading to terrorism/upcoming G8 Summit, etc.] omitted an important point.

If we are serious about ending global poverty, we must cancel the illegitimate debts that impoverished countries in the southern hemisphere claimed by wealthy nations in the north and institutions like the International Monetary Fund.

In the 1970s, developing nations borrowed money often with unfairly high interest rates and sometimes to the benefit of dictators rather than their people. The results can be seen in highly impoverished regions like Sub-Saharan Africa that carries \$201 billion in debt, despite repaying more than 90% of the \$294 billion received between 1970 and 2002.

Debt relief works. For example, Tanzania received \$3 billion in debt relief, enabling the country to increase funding for poverty reduction by 130 percent over the last six years. Their investments in education enabled approximately 1.6 million children to return to school almost overnight.

Every person of good conscience should take action. The first step is asking our elected officials in Washington, D.C. to pass new debt legislation which would provide debt cancellation to countries that are struggling to take care of their people.

This is not an act of charity. It is an act of justice.

Sincerely,

Your name
Address

Daytime phone and email – the paper will want to verify that you wrote this letter before publishing it or may ask you to approve an edited version.