



WPSR Guide to Letters to the Editor - 2022

Resources for Writing Effective LTEs

- ❖ **ReThink Media:** [LTE Quick Tips](#)
 - ❖ **NRDC:** [How to write a successful LTE](#)
 - ❖ **Union of Concerned Scientists:** [Writing an effective LTE](#)
 - ❖ **WPSR LTE Example:** Emily Grant (2020) "[No time to delay health equity](#)" *The Spokesman Review*
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What is an LTE?

WHAT?

- A short (300 words or fewer!) letter to a newspaper's editor
- Typically a proactive statement in support of, or in opposition to, a particular issue that affects the publication's readers.

WHY?

- One of the most read sections of a newspaper
 - Electeds often get daily clippings of the LTE section
 - Easier to place than an Op-Ed/Guest Essay
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How to Write an Effective LTE

1. Respond to or cite an article - ideally a front-page article, opinion piece, or editorial; or
2. Respond to a topical issue/policy/event that is relevant to the paper's readership
3. Focus on ONE main issue & clearly state argument - you only have 200-300 words to make a compelling case!
4. Make it personal and note your expertise - as health professionals, you have unique perspectives to offer, be clear about your point-of-view in the first few sentences!



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5. Use supporting evidence (and remember, there are many kinds of evidence: data/research, storytelling from personal experience, quotes from experts of people with lived experience, etc).
 6. Identify with a solution & end with a call to action - what do you want your readers to do?
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Tips for Getting Published

- **Be timely!** The first 24-48 hours after an article is published is the best window to respond.
 - **Respect the word limit!!** One of the easiest ways to have your LTE rejected is to not follow the word limit.
 - **Double-check submission guidelines** - Each outlet is unique!
 - **Be polite**, papers won't publish insulting pieces. However, it is perfectly okay to be *respectfully* critical of a paper.
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Where to Submit?

Follow the title links for full submission guidelines for each outlet:

Clark County:

- [The Columbian](#) (Vancouver, WA): 200 words or less

King County:

- [Crosscut](#): No word limit specified
- [Bellevue Reporter](#): 300 words or less
- [Kent Reporter](#): 250 words or less
- [Redmond Reporter](#): 300 words or less
- [Renton Reporter](#): 250 words or less



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- [Seattle Times](#): 200 words or less
- [Seattle Weekly](#): No word limit specified (use drop-down menu to choose LTE)
- [Tukwila reporter](#): 250 words or less

Kitsap County:

- [Kitsap Daily News](#): 250 words or less
- [Kitsap Sun](#): 250 words or less

Pierce County/ I-5 Corridor:

- [Bellingham Herald](#): 1400 characters including spaces or less
- [Centralia Chronicle](#): 500 words or fewer, shorter preferred
- [Olympian](#): 250 words or fewer
- [Tacoma News Tribune](#): 200 words or less
- [Tacoma Weekly](#): No word limit specified
- [Tri-City-herald](#): 200 words or less

Snohomish County:

- [Everett Herald Net](#): 300 words or less
- [My Edmonds News](#): No word limit specified
- [Snohomish County Tribune](#): 200 words or less

Spokane County:

- [Inlander](#): No word count specified
- [The Spokesman Review](#): 250 words or less

Whitman County:

- [Moscow-Pullman Daily News](#): No word limit specified
- [Whitman County Gazette](#): 500 words or less

Yakima County:

- [Yakima Herald](#): 200 word limit for print; 500 for online