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| **Components** | **4-Exceptional** | **3-Accomplished** | **2-Developing** | **1-Beginning** |
| **Organization**  ( \_\_\_/8) | * Uses standard letter format * Information is organized in a way that clearly articulates the writer’s message | * Mostly uses standard letter format * Organized in a way that mostly articulates the writer’s message | * Somewhat uses standard letter format * Organized in a way that somewhat articulates the writer’s message | * Does not use standard letter format * Not organized in a way that clearly articulates the writer’s message |
| **Content**  ( \_\_\_/20) | * Addresses a specific government official * A Pulitzer Center news story is summarized accurately, concisely, and with appropriate citation to support the explanation of a global issue that concerns the writer * A clear, specific connection is made between the global issue and the writer and/or writer’s local community * A persuasive argument is made for the importance of the issue, both internationally and locally * A persuasive argument is made for what a government official receiving your letter should do (a proposed solution, or an idea for drawing more attention to the issue) | * Addresses a specific government official * A Pulitzer Center news story is summarized accurately and mostly supports the explanation of a global issue that concerns the writer * A clear connection between the international issue and the writer and/or writer’s local community is made * A somewhat persuasive argument is made for the importance of the issue, both internationally and locally * An argument is made for what the government official receiving your letter should do (a proposed solution, or an idea for drawing more attention to the issue) | * Addresses a specific government official * A Pulitzer Center news story is referenced that partially supports the explanation of a global issue that concerns the writer. * Makes a connection between the international issue and the writer and/or writer’s local community * An argument is made for the importance of the issue internationally and/or locally * An argument is made for what the government official receiving your letter should do (a proposed solution, or an idea for drawing more attention to the issue) | * Addresses a specific government official * A Pulitzer Center news story is not referenced to support the explanation of a global issue that concerns the writer. * Does not connect the international issue and the writer and/or writer’s local community * An argument is not clearly made for the importance of the issue internationally and/or locally * An argument is not clearly made for what the government official receiving your letter should do (a proposed solution, or an idea for drawing more attention to the issue) |
| **Language**  ( \_\_\_/8) | * No spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity * Thoughtful use of language to persuade the reader | * Spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity in one or two instances * Thoughtful use of language to persuade the reader | * Spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity in several instances * Some thoughtful use of language to persuade the reader | * Spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity throughout * Unclear use of language to persuade the reader |

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**/ 36**