

Local Letters for Global Change: Letter-writing Worksheet

Select a Pulitzer Center news story and use it to help explain a global issue, how it connects to your community, and what should be done about it. This worksheet will help you get started! Suggested stories are available at www.pulitzercenter.org/localletters, and all eligible stories are available at www.pulitzercenter.org/stories.

1. While you explore your story: Take notes that will help you write your letter.

Your name	
Title of the Pulitzer Center news story you selected	
Journalists(s) who reported your story	
Publication / News outlet	
What global issue(s) does the story describe?	
Does the story share any potential solutions to the issue(s)? If so, describe them.	

<p>What numbers, facts, or quotes stand out to you? Note these down.</p>	
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2. After you explore your story: Write a letter to your representative using this template.

<p>Salutation (Dear _____,) - include the name of your representative.</p>
<p>Short summary of a global issue, citing the Pulitzer Center news story you chose.</p>
<p>Explanation of how this issue connects to you and your community.</p>

Suggestion of what action you would like your representative to take on this issue.

Closing and signature

3. Enter the contest! For instructions on how to enter your letter into the Pulitzer Center's 2023 Local Letters for Global Change contest, visit www.pulitzercenter.org/localletters!

Deadline: November 12, 2023. Questions? Email education@pulitzercenter.org.

Suggested News Stories:

Use one of these stories to write your letter, or search for one at www.pulitzercenter.org/stories

Stories for Grades 3 and up:

1. [Next Generation of Doctors Prepares To Tackle Rural Health Care Shortage in West Virginia](#) [Video, text]
2. [Trash Sorters in Ghana Face Health and Safety Risks](#) [Audio, photo, text]
3. [India Faces Challenge of Feeding Its People As It Becomes World's Most Populous Nation](#) [Video, text]
4. [Illinois Students Struggle To Find Halal Food](#) [Photo, text]
5. [San Diego Pays a Lot for Abundant Water. Tijuana Pays a Different Price for Water Scarcity.](#) [Photo, text]
6. [Disaster Aid Running Out As Pakistan Struggles To Recover From 2022 Floods](#) [Video, text]

Stories for Grades 6 and up

1. [The Future of Labor Advocacy is as Diverse as Workforce](#) [Photo, text]

2. [Toxic Water in S. Texas Colonias Costs Residents Precious Health and Money](#) [Audio, photo, text]
3. [How Extreme Heat Impacts Your Brain and Mental Health](#) [Video, text] *Content warning: Mentions of suicide
4. [The Race To Extract an Indigenous Language From Its Last Lucid Speaker](#) [Photo, text]
5. [Can We Control Marine Invaders by Eating Them?](#) [Video, photo, text]
6. [Housing Shortage Plus Earthquake Risk? It's Not Just a Problem in L.A.](#) [Photo, text]
7. [Purepecha Tribe: A Power Struggle Between the People and Government](#) [Photo, text]
8. [Health Care Professionals Who Are Transgender and Non-binary Are Changing the Exclusionary Health Care System](#) [Photo, text]
9. [Young Climate Activists Warn Their Elders: Stop Destroying the Planet](#) [Photo, text]
10. [India Is Home to 169 Billionaires, but These Children Still Forage Through Trash](#) [Photo, text]

Stories for Grades 9 and up

1. [The Vice of Spice: Confronting Lead-Tainted Turmeric](#) [Photo, text]
2. [Parts Made by U.S. Companies Are Used To Build Russian Cruise Missiles](#) [Video, text]
3. [Those Who Don't Exist: Long COVID in Mexico](#) [Video, photo, text]
4. [Dreams Derailed: How Three States in the American South Made College Illegal for Undocumented Students](#) [Photo, graphic, text]
5. [Powerful U.S. Political Family Linked to Copper Mining in the Colombian Rainforest](#) [Photo, graphic, text]
6. [How Denmark's Welfare State Became a Surveillance Nightmare](#) [Text]
7. [Black Pregnant Women Are Turning to Midwives for Personalized Care—And a Better Chance at Survival](#) [Photo, text]
8. [Extreme Heat Is Endangering America's Workers—and Its Economy](#) [Video, photo, text]
9. [Collagen Craze Drives Deforestation and Rights Abuses](#) [Photo, text]
10. [For Ghana's Only Openly Transgender Musician, 'Every Day Is Dangerous'](#) [Photo, text]
11. [In Ukraine, Grain Shortages Reverberate Beyond Borders](#) [Photo, text]
12. [Are Carbon Offsets All They're Cracked Up To Be? We Tracked One From Kenya to England To Find Out.](#) [Text]
13. [Tracked: How Colleges Use AI To Monitor Student Protests](#) [Photo, text] *Content warning: Mentions of suicide and gun violence
14. [Rebellion in Resistance: Profile of a Palestinian Educator](#) [Photo, text] *Content warning: Descriptions of state violence
15. [The War of the Past Is Still Present: Landmine Clearance in Vietnam](#) [Photo, text] *Content warning: Descriptions of war violence

Reviewing Your Letter

Directions: All letters get better with revision! Ask yourself these questions while you re-read your letter and identify areas you may want to work on more. When you have reflected on the question, check it off.

1. Have I formatted my letter correctly?

Questions to ask yourself:

- Have I used the standard letter format, including a salutation (e.g. Dear _____,) and signoff (e.g. Sincerely, _____)?
- Did I address my letter to an elected representative, using their official title and full name?

2. Have I successfully summarized a global issue citing a Pulitzer Center news story and demonstrated a local connection?

Questions to ask yourself:

- Have I accurately summarized and cited a Pulitzer Center new story? Did I include relevant facts, statistics, and/or quotes from the story that help explain the issue?
- Did I identify the relevant global, systemic issue(s) in the Pulitzer Center new story? (e.g. climate change, food insecurity, gender inequality)
- Have I explained how this global issue connects to me and/or my community on a local level? Did I provide specific examples?

3. Is the solution I am advocating for clear and persuasive?

Questions to ask yourself:

- Have I researched how people are already working to solve this issue, and considered how their work can inform my suggestions?
- Is the action appropriate for the representative's position? Do they have the power to enact the change I would like to see?
- Is the action specific and clear? If I received this letter, would I understand what the writer wanted me to do?
- Have I explained why I believe this solution will be effective, and used facts to back up my claims?
- Have I considered how different groups of people will be impacted by this solution?
- Have I used intentional language to persuade my reader and communicate my tone?