

Local Letters for Global Change Writing Contest Rubric

Entry form and guidelines: www.pulitzercenter.org/localletters

Deadline: Sunday, November 1, 2026 at 11:59pm EST

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, appropriate representative ☐ A Pulitzer Center news story is summarized and cited accurately and concisely in a way that supports the explanation of a global issue ☐ A clear, specific connection is made between the global issue and the writer and/or their local community ☐ A persuasive argument is made for the local and global importance of the issue; the writer shows how this issue is systemic ☐ A persuasive argument is made for what the representative should do, and the action is appropriate to their position	☐ Addresses a specific, mostly appropriate representative ☐ A Pulitzer Center news story is summarized and cited accurately in a way that supports the explanation of a global issue ☐ A clear connection is made between the global issue and the writer and/or their local community ☐ A somewhat persuasive argument is made for the local and global importance of the issue; the writer makes an effort to show how this issue is systemic ☐ A clear argument is made for what the representative should do	☐ Addresses a specific but not appropriate representative ☐ A Pulitzer Center news story is referenced in connection with a global issue ☐ Makes a connection between the global issue and the writer and/or writer's local community ☐ An argument is made for the local and global importance of the issue ☐ An argument is made for what the representative should do	☐ Does not address a specific representative ☐ A Pulitzer Center news story is not referenced ☐ Does not connect the global issue and the writer and/or writer's local community ☐ It is not clear how this issue connects to the writer and/or their community ☐ An argument is not clearly made for what the representative should do, or that argument is unrelated to their position
Language (__/8)	☐ No spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity ☐ Consistent powerful 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 ☐ Occasional thoughtful use of language to persuade the reader	☐ Spelling and grammar errors reduce the letter's clarity throughout ☐ The tone of the letter is not persuasive

Total: _____ / 36