

## Letter to the editor

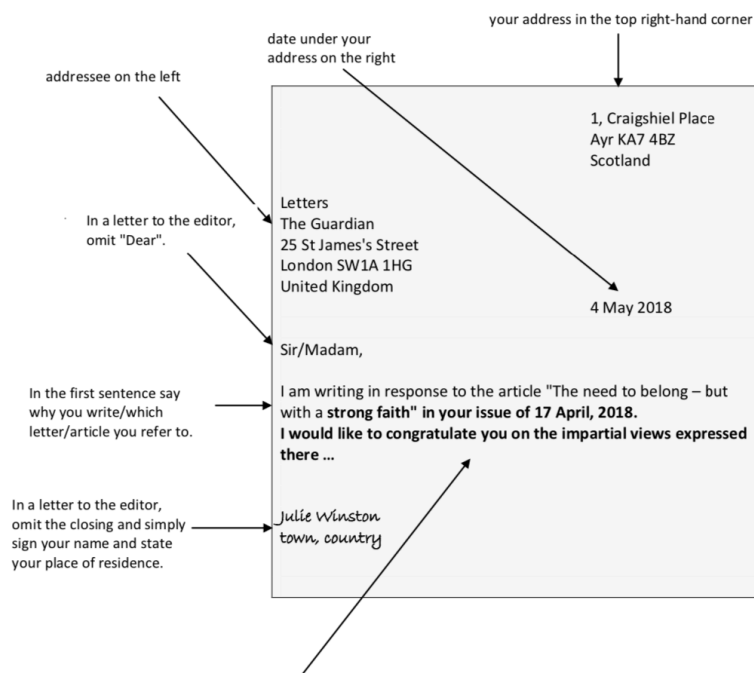
In general, people write letters to an editor because:

- They have been offended by something published in the paper.
- They agree or disagree with something that was published.
- They are able to offer an interesting and/or expert opinion and/or additional information on something published or a current news event.

### Preparation:

- 1) Highlight the author's arguments
- 2) Make a list of the author's arguments you want to focus on and write your opinion next to them
- 3) Decide on the purpose of your letter, e.g. criticism/support of the author's opinion
- 4) Focus on ideas/arguments relevant to the task
- 5) Refer to additional information
- 6) Structure your notes in a logical order

### Formal Aspects:



As to the content of your letter:

Clearly state your purpose. Make clear right away if you want to criticize, support or add information.

You might have to repeat a certain argument presented in the newspaper article in question to show what you are referring to, but do not tell the journalists what they have written themselves.

### Sources:

[https://bildungsserver.berlin-brandenburg.de/fileadmin/bbb/unterricht/unterrichtsentwicklung/](https://bildungsserver.berlin-brandenburg.de/fileadmin/bbb/unterricht/unterrichtsentwicklung/Individualisierung_des_Lernens/)

[Individualisierung des Lernens/](#)

[2018 Materialien zum selbststaendigen standardorientierte Lernen in der gymnasialen Oberstufe Englisch Text production.pdf](#)

Green Line

<https://www.studienkreis.de/englisch/letter-to-the-editor/>

## Trump's Calamitous Coronavirus Response

A whole-of-government mobilization to protect the president's ego.

Last month, after analyzing figures on epidemics since 1960, The Economist concluded that people die at a higher rate from such disease outbreaks in authoritarian countries than in democratic ones, even controlling for income levels.

This might seem counterintuitive. Autocratic societies have an easier time imposing strict behavioral limits than democratic ones; it's hard to imagine Italy locking down Milan the way China closed off Wuhan. Without the messy deliberations of democracy, certain kinds of infrastructure can be scaled up much more quickly. [...]

But democratic countries are far better than authoritarian ones at fact-based policymaking and at sharing the truth with the public. "Non-democratic societies often restrict the flow of information and persecute perceived critics," The Economist piece noted. We've seen this in China. As Li Yuan wrote of the coronavirus in The Times last month, "As the virus spread, officials in Wuhan and around the country withheld critical information, played down the threat and rebuked doctors who tried to raise the alarm."

Unfortunately, you could substitute "Washington, D.C." for "Wuhan" in that sentence and it would be equally true. So far, Donald Trump's response to the coronavirus combines the worst features of autocracy and of democracy, mixing opacity and propaganda with leaderless inefficiency.

From the beginning, Trump minimized the scale of the crisis, portraying it as a purely foreign threat that could be addressed by closing borders. At a Feb. 26 news conference, he claimed there were 15 cases in America, omitting those diagnosed overseas. "The 15 within a couple of days is going to be down to close to zero," he said. As of this writing, there have been more than 210 cases confirmed across the country and 12 deaths.

[...]

Within the administration, there's strong pressure not to contradict Trump's line. In February, when Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, warned that community spread of the coronavirus in America was inevitable, the president was reportedly furious, and the director of the C.D.C. said she misspoke. Pro-Trump media figures like Rush Limbaugh suggested that she was part of an anti-Trump conspiracy because her brother is former Justice Department official Rod Rosenstein, often derided on the right as part of the Deep State.

[...]

But if this administration is incapable of the basic honesty one expects from officials in a democracy, it also can't pull off autocratic, top-down coordination. It has utterly failed to ramp up sufficient testing capacity; on Thursday, Vice President Mike Pence admitted, "We don't have enough tests today to meet what we anticipate will be the demand going forward."

[...]

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/06/opinion/trump-coronavirus-us.html>