



Writing Letters to the Editor

Your public officials read the letters section each day to see what their constituents are thinking. **YOU are a constituent, and your voice matters!** Writing a letter is the greatest way to take individual action and feel like you are making a difference. **Your letter can educate the public, influence public leaders, and get others to take action.** When your letter gets published? You **HAVE** made a difference!

The Anchorage Daily News publishes an average of 15 letters, from all across the state, each day. Writing letters to the editor is similar to writing a letter to a public official.

Did you know... Young people who write letters have a much higher chance of getting their letter printed than **adults!**

TIPS for effective letters to the editor:

- Always follow the newspaper's guidelines. In the Anchorage Daily News, you must keep your letter to 250 words & include your daytime phone number.
- **Start your letter:** *To the Editor*, **End it:** *Sincerely*,

Your signature

"Brevity is the soul of wit":
Anchorage Daily News

Your name (*printed*)
Your **AGE!**

- **Make sure your letter is brief and clear.** Long letters often get chopped by editors, which can take the meaning away from your letter.
- **Your topic should be timely.** This means, your topic is something that people are currently talking about or interested in.
- **Never make accusations.** This can a) get you in a lot of trouble, and b) turn people off, especially the people deciding whether to print your letter!
- **Don't send the same letter to more than one paper.** The papers want something unique, they don't want to print a letter that already appeared in a competing paper!
- **Proofread! Proofread!** If you are representing a club or organization, let others preview your letter before you send it to the paper. Some papers do not correct spelling, which could prove embarrassing later!

Contact Information:

Anchorage Daily News (1-800) 478-4200 letters@adn.com