

Letter to the Editor Assignment

In this assignment you will describe and react to a recent event that either demonstrates or denies one or more of the American political values that we have discussed in class. Your letter will be two paragraphs in length and should follow the format described below:

Paragraph one - In this paragraph you will introduce and summarize the issue described in your article. The paragraph should begin with a topic sentence that indicates the issue, the date the article was published and the publication where the article was found. If you wish, you may use the following sentence frame:

In the (date of publication) issue of the (publication name) the story (title of article) described (the issue described in the article).

You may need to alter the frame to fit the needs of your source/article.

After the topic sentence, the paragraph should describe the three main points of the article. At the very least, this paragraph should explain what happened and enough background so that the reader can understand the event. Your paragraph should be supported by quotations from the article that develop your descriptions. Please choose quotations that do the best job of illustrating the central points you are making about the article. All quotations should be explained in terms of how they illustrate the events described in the article.

In the second paragraph you will explain how the article either demonstrates or denies one of the American political values we have discussed in class. Your topic sentence should clearly indicate the value in question and whether the article demonstrates or denies it. If you wish, you may use the following frame:

(Event) clearly (demonstrates/denies) the idea of (The value you have chosen).

After the topic sentence you will explain what the value means and provide evidence of this value from either the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. Then, you will explain, in detail, two reasons how the event either supports or denies the value you have chosen. Each reason must be explained in at least three sentences.

Please see the back of this page for outline templates for both paragraphs of the letter.

For the final draft, please include correct citations (both in text and bibliographic) for all sources used. Please follow the guidelines provided in class for the correct citation of sources.

While groups may discuss the articles they have chosen, each group member must write their own original letter. Please make sure not to copy someone else's work!

Rough drafts of your letter are due on Friday, August 19. We will do peer editing on this day. Final drafts are due on Tuesday, August 23.

Paragraph 1 - Summary of the article (descriptive, not persuasive)

Topic sentence:

First main point of the article:

Quotation illustrating and developing this point:

Second main point of the article:

Quotation illustrating and developing this point:

Third main point of the article:

Quotation illustrating and developing this point:

Paragraph 2 - Explanation of how the value is supported or denied (persuasive, not descriptive)

Topic sentence indicating that the article either supports or denies the value:

Description of the value:

Supporting quote from Dol or Constitution:

First reason that the event either supports/denies the value:

Development of this idea:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Development of this idea:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

