



## WRITING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

- A letter to the editor (LTE) is specifically addressed to the editor of a newspaper, usually in response to a news story, editorial, column or another letter to the editor.
- Be specific and brief. Avoid being excessively emotional and avoid insulting language.
- Aim for 250 words or less. Be sure to check with your local paper to find out about their guidelines.
- Newspapers usually require that you include your full name, phone number, and address with your submission.
- An LTE can be signed by an individual or a group.

### WRITING PROMPTS

#### **What is the issue?**

*Write about why you care. For example, "I believe every child deserves public pre-k because every child deserve a strong start." Be sure to mention the specific article to which you are responding if applicable.*

#### **State the problem (tell your story)**

*Be specific about the challenges you've experienced if possible. Are you a parent spending more on child care than housing?*

#### **What's the solution?**

*Paint a picture of a better future for children and families in Montana — what does it look like?*

#### **Call to action**

*Let the reader know what they can do in one simple step to bring about the solution you outlined above (e.g. tell your legislators why you support increased public investments in high-quality public pre-k).*

**LETTER TO EDITOR EXAMPLE:**

*Dear Editor:*

*The (insert date) article (insert article name) addressed (insert issue). As a (insert parent/early childhood educator, etc.) I am writing to add some important information to the discussion. The article did not touch on a very important factor—baby brain development.*

*Between the ages of 0 and 3, our brains grow faster than at any other time in our lives, creating more than one million new neural connections every second. According to the most recent research, babies' neural connections are stimulated and strengthened when they have positive early learning experiences, nourishing relationships, and adequate nutrition, laying a solid foundation for their entire lives. However, not all infants, toddlers, and families are afforded the same opportunities to develop and thrive. We must ensure that each baby has everything they need to reach their full potential if our nation is to thrive.*

*In our community and among our elected officials, ensuring that every baby has a healthy start in life must be a top priority. In the long run, investing in policies and programs that support early brain development yields significant returns in the form of additional educational years, employment opportunities, and improved health. Everyone benefits when babies are healthy.*

*(name)*

*(title)*