

Simple Guidelines for Writing Letters to the Editor

People mainly write letters to the editor in response to an editorial, or in reply to what another writer has written, or out of concern (or disgust) of current affairs and local and national events. In writing about the Restore America Conference, it will be more of an “informative” type letter. However, your letter can be in response to today’s moral decline and the lack of “truth” in today’s society as well as apathy among Christian voters. The conference is in response to our concerns over those current issues and is intended to inform, educate, and motivate other Christians and conservatives with the same concerns. Make the reader interested and motivated to attend.

- *Always* include your name, address, and phone number. Some newspapers will email or call the writer for verification purposes. Only your name and perhaps your town will appear after your letter.
- Keep in mind that some papers will edit what you write, so state your objective early.
- Keep your letter as short (around 200-250 words) as possible and to the point. When writing about the RA Conference try to include some of the speakers (Ken Hutcherson and Judge Pickering are probably recognizable names), and include some of the subjects.
- Avoid confrontational words such as abortion and homosexual. Instead use terms like “preserving life” and “traditional marriage.”
- Many times it is beneficial to construct your letter, then walk away and return to read what you wrote later in the day or even the next day. You will be surprised how much you will change the wording to sound better!
- The local community papers most generally print all the letters they get but not necessarily the week you send it. These papers come out once a week on either Wednesday or Thursday, and you need to submit your letter at least a *week in advance*.
- Papers like The Oregonian and the Statesman Journal receive hundreds of letters, so don’t be disappointed if yours doesn’t make print. Either keep trying or concentrate on the local papers. You can submit the same letter to the major papers as you submit to local papers.
- You can put the title of your letter in the subject line (which they might change), or simply put the words “letter to the editor” which some papers request.

Suggestions on Where to Send your Letters

- The Oregonian – letters@news.oregonian.com
- The Statesman Journal (Salem) – Go to StatesmanJournal. Com. Click on “Contact Us” (upper right-hand corner of the screen), then scroll down about half way and click on “Send a Letter to the Editor.” Read the short paragraph on instructions then fill in the form. *I recommend that you construct your letter beforehand and then copy and paste into the space provided.*
- The Columbian (Vancouver) – Fay Blackburn (Letters from readers)
fay.blackburn@columbian.com
- The Times (Tigard, Tualatin, and Sherwood) – Nick Peterson
npeterson@commnewspapers.com
- Lake Oswego Review – Martin Forbes
mforbes@lakeoswegoreview.com
- West Linn Tidings – AmyJo Brown
abrown@westlinntidings.com
- Clackamas Review – (They request that you put the words “letter to the editor” in the subject line.)
editor@clackamasreview.com

Sample Letter

(230 words)

I am deeply concerned about the decline of the traditional morals in America and the seemingly lack of concern from the Christian community. Many churches are not speaking out against the continuing assault on traditional marriage, and they certainly haven't put much effort into changing the law that has caused so many innocent unborn babies to be slaughtered. These are just two of my concerns.

Too many Christians think that all they have to do is go to church, sing a few hymns, pray, and go home, but I would like to inform them that there is much more they can and should be doing.

Rolling Hills Community Church in Tualatin will play host to a conference February 23 and 24 that will educate, inform, and motivate. The Restore America Conference will feature several outstanding speakers that are guaranteed to motivate attendees into action. Among the eleven speakers are Janet Folger of Faith2Action, Gary Cass from the Center for Reclaiming America, and the Northwest's own Ken Hutcherson, a former NFL football player and now the Senior Pastor of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, Washington.

The Restore America Conference intends to mobilize Christians and conservatives into action in order to restore our country to its original intent and keep America one nation under God. If you care and want to hear from dynamic speakers, go to www.restoreamerica.org and sign up today.