Letter to the Editor

**Purpose:**

How many times have we heard someone complaining about something happening in our communities--but offering no solutions for the problem?  This assignment is designed to develop your problem-solving skills and engage you in a substantive conversation concerning a current local issue.  This assignment will also encourage you to begin seriously considering your audience as a writer.  When you are writing a letter such as this, you'll want to consider who will be reading it, particularly in terms of what words, examples, facts, or appeals might best convince this particular group.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: Papers on the following topics will not be accepted:   
  
\* abortion  
\* capital punishment  
\* euthanasia**

**For the Letter to the Editor, you should also be choosing a topic that is far more specific and local than any of these broad controversial issues.**

**The Assignment:**

Write a two to three-page double-spaced (minimum of 550-750 words) letter to the editor, proposing a solution to a current local problem.

List the newspaper to which you would be sending this to at the top of your paper.

Begin the letter with:  "Dear Editor,"  Throughout the paper, be as specific as you possibly can in terms of:

1) Defining/describing the problem and who it affects

2) Describing your solution

3) Defending your solution as the best means of dealing with this problem.

4) As you're writing this letter, also do keep in mind your audience.