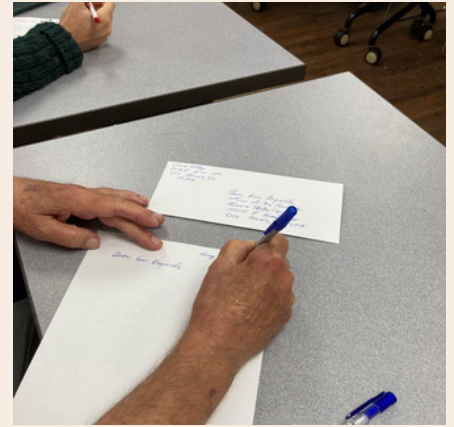


5 TIPS FOR HOSTING A LETTER-WRITING PARTY

LEARN MORE: [AFSC.ORG/CRISIS-GAZA](https://afsc.org/crisis-gaza)



1 GOALS AND TARGETS

Before writing a letter or asking others to do so, consider your goal. What do you want to change? Your goal could be big or small, but it should help determine the content of your letter. Pick a target who holds power to help you accomplish your goal. Who might you be able to influence? You can write to elected officials (local, statewide, or national), media corporations, community leaders, businesses, or anyone else with decision-making power. Make sure you have an address for your target!

2 WHY WRITE LETTERS?

When targeting an elected official, letters and phone calls are typically considered more influential than emails. Mass emails demonstrate widespread support for a cause, but phone calls and hand-written letters demonstrate dedication to a cause. Though letters are not as efficient for urgent asks, for targets with no phone number or full voicemail boxes, letters can sometimes be the only way to communicate. Letters also physically manifest your concerns, making them harder to ignore. Politicians in D.C. often display letters from their constituents on their walls.

4 CREATE COMMUNITY

Taking frequent action, but observing few results can be incredibly frustrating. It can be rejuvenating to surround yourself with people who understand the way you're feeling and take action together. Decide where you would like to host your letter-writing party (your home, a bookstore, community center, or library) and invite your friends! Gather the supplies you might need, e.g., paper, envelopes, stamps, pens, stickers, and tape. If you're hosting your event in a public place, ensure you have permission to do so. Do you want to play music? Will you serve any food?

3 CONTENT

Begin your letter with a short personal introduction, the kind you might use with a new friend. Mention your constituency if applicable. To build goodwill, begin your letter by thanking your target for a recent action they've taken. Connect your goal into every aspect of your letter. How can you convince your target to take action toward your goal? You can use storytelling techniques from our "3 Ways to Tell Your Story" guide. If you're writing to the media, consider repurposing your letter using our "5 Tips For Compelling Letters to the Editor" guide.

5 SEND YOUR LETTER

By decorating your letter and envelope, you can increase your chances that your letter is given the attention it deserves. Think about the kinds of letters you might display on your fridge. Can you include a photo of your dog or cat? Draw a picture on the envelope? Make sure that you have the address correct, that you've included a return address, and that you have the correct amount of postage. For targets who might take security measures with their mail, sending a postcard instead of a letter can help avoid delays.