

Host a Letter to the Editor (LTE) Writing Party

Invite a few friends over for tea, cookies, and writing letters to the editor (about taxing the ultra-rich)!

This is the tactic for you if...

- You have like to throw a good party and write letters to the editor
- You care about economic equality and building our political imagination

Why this tactic matters

Letters to the editor are among the most-read sections of the local newspaper, and a “mini-campaign” of 3-5 letters printed around the same time really builds the perception that people in your community care about building a world that works for everyone by taxing those who have the most. Even if just a couple of your collective letters get published, it can make a big impact!

What to do

1. Pick a date, time, and location for your event.

Pro-tip: Your kitchen or dining room table can make a great location!

2. Get 4-5 friends to join you.

Pro-tip: Personal invitations (like phone calls or individual texts) that include *why* you think their presence matters at this event can go a long way! Follow-up reminders the day of the event are also really helpful. (And bribing them with their favorite drink or dessert can't hurt.)

3. Register your event with NETWORK.

Don't worry, we won't promote the event. This just helps us to track our impact.

4. Prepare for your event.

- Get refreshments.** Something simple like tea or lemonade and cookies is more than enough.
- Print talking points for every guest.** These will help your guests format a strong letter.
- Set up some tech to watch a quick video.** A computer on your table or connected to a TV is adequate.

5. Host your event.

Pro-tip: If you can, take pictures or ask a guest to take pictures throughout your event.

- a. **Guests gather and enjoy refreshments.**
- b. **Welcome your guests and tell them why you're hosting this event.** Your personal sharing about why this topic and *taking action in community* matter to you helps to kick the conversation and keep you focused on why you've gathered.

If your guests don't all know each other, have them introduce themselves. Include a fun question to allow them to get to know each other a little bit more deeply. Gathering expert Priya Parker calls these "magical questions." ([Click here](#) for some of Priya's favorites.)
- c. **Watch the "how to" video**, where Sr. Eilis shares about how to write a letter to the editor.
- d. **Give your guests time to review the talking points.** You may consider talking about the information in these talking points and deciding who will focus on what specifics. Since most newspapers have a word limit of 200 words, keeping your letter concise matters. Having multiple letters that make different points strengthens the narrative in your community.
- e. **Draft your letters.** Give participants about 15-20 minutes to draft their letters. They can do this on a computer or on a piece of paper.
- f. **Exchange to offer suggestions or invite a couple of participants to share out loud and receive friendly feedback.**
- g. **Submit your letters.** Take time while you're together to submit your letters to the editor. Most local newspapers offer a "Submit a Letter to the Editor" form on their website. Others offer an email address where you can send your letters.
- h. **Celebrate your work!**

6. Watch your paper to see which letters were printed and let your friends know about each letter published!

7. Report back to let us know how your event went.

Let us know what went well, how the support was, and what you might hope for in the future. This helps us to improve the support we're able to provide to you.

Send your pictures. Photos especially help us to promote your great work and inspire others to join you! Please let us know who is in the photo and if we have permission to use the photos in a future NETWORK publication or social media post.

And when your letters are published, be sure to let us know so that we can lift them up to your Members of Congress and brag about your work to inspire others.

NETWORK Support

NETWORK organizers are here to support you. If you have any questions or want to talk through any ideas or concerns you may have, reach out!

Catherine Gillette

CA, MI, NY, OH, TX, VA

cgillette@networklobby.org

Sr. Emily TeKolste

IL, IN, KY, MO, NJ, PA

etekolste@networklobby.org

Sr. Eilis McCulloh

All other states

emcculloh@networklobby.org