On Letters-to-the Editor
by
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When newspapers were the primary means of informing people about events, <u>Letters to the Editor</u> were an important part of daily newspapers. However newspapers and other media have strayed away from reporting news to filling their print and visual tablets with commentaries and editorial remarks. Comparatively speaking, most news media now lack input from their readers/viewers.

Today's media is no longer independent from their owners. Most one-person or small media outlets have been bought out by large conglomerates or regional corporations wanting to control the "news" narrative and the opinions of others.

Consequently, the number of words in a <u>Letter to the Editor</u> is now restricted to 200 words, with 150 becoming the norm.

To overcome such restrictions you must understand English grammar and have a large vocabulary in order to make your point. Essentially you are limited to making only one point and not being able to expound on it. Consequently, others are not given the information needed to make their own decisions. This process is a perversion of open and free speech, and a free press.

While it's difficult to make one's point with <u>Letters to the Editor</u>, opinion editorials (Op-Ed) allow more words (600-750), but are still short. The media typically does not run such editorials unless they support their narrative.

With national and regional media, Op-Ed's no longer represent local opinions but rather voice the opinions of national columnists.

The above commentary has been written as if it were a <u>Letter to the Editor</u>. It probably would not be published because of it being critical for the media and because it contains 233 words (not including title or byline). It also contains more than one point of view:

1. Information about letters to the editor
2. Opinion of ownership
3. Opinion Editorials

When you write a <u>Letter the Editor</u>:
- Write all your thoughts down
- Go back over your letter and eliminate what is not essential
- Edit what remains, eliminate superfluous wording, use contractions when possible, use a thesaurus to get your point across
- Review it carefully
- Send it when your are satisfied with its contents