



Types of Letters



Beyond personal, government, or military communication, letter writing has served as a form of connecting people and amplifying causes.

Fan Letters are letters sent to public figures — often celebrities — written by admirers in support of that person and their work. Sometimes, fans seek advice as well. Fan letters are not a new phenomenon and have been recorded throughout history, an example being the Greek philosopher Aristotle writing to his teacher, Plato.



Political or campaign letters are letters addressed to a government representative or person in a position of power and address a specific issue important to that individual. The strongest

letters are direct, remain factual and courteous (avoiding all threats of violence and hate speech), and are specific and personal. Often, the author writes to propose a solution or to push for a specific change. Political letters can be a part of a larger letter writing campaign for a cause, making a big impact due to their personalization.



Febb Ensminger Burns wrote a seven-page letter to her son Harry T. Burn, urging him to vote for ratification in August 1920. His vote broke the tie in the Tennessee legislature, causing Tennessee to be the 36th state to ratify the Nineteenth Amendment, making it the law of the land.

Another form of letter writing is the **Open Letter**, which is addressed to an individual or a group and intended for broad publication and distribution. Open letters have a long history within non-violent protest practices, several being written from within incarceration.

How to write to Your Government Representative

You can find the mailing address of your government representative via <https://www.usa.gov/elected-officials>. This page will guide you to the mailing address of your local, county, state, and federal officials.