Instructions for Writing an Editorial

Student who write a "Letter to the Editor" of a news source need to write a report by answering the questions below and posting this along with the letter in assignment #5.

About "Letters to the Editor"
Letters to the editor can be a simple vehicle for articulating your issue/concern and your position for addressing your issue. The letter to the editor is a vehicle of trying to promote your concern on the political agenda.

Students who decide to write a letter to the editor must submit their letter to the instructor in Assignment #5. If the letter is printed, then the student needs to provide evidence of this to the instructor.

When writing a letter to a news source you should consider a number of items. Remember, your goal is to get the letter printed in the newspaper. There are some simple things you must do for any chance that a new source editor will print your letter.

1. Know the news source and the editorial practices of the paper, journal, or magazine.
   If you know the editorial practices of the news source you can determine if your concern might be something that an editor would feel her/his readers are interested in hearing your opinion on. In other words your issue/concern letter might be written very well, compelling, and convincing, but the particular news source may never give print space to such an issue/concern.
2. Make sure you are writing following the specific guidelines given for the news source. If the news source requires a maximum of 200 words, then do not go over. This would be a way to ensure your letter does not get printed.
3. Make sure you are using formal English. Think about having others read and help edit your work before submitting.
4. Remember your goal is to convince readers that your issue/concern is important. Also, you are using this as a possibility to convince the reader to take some type of political action to address this issue/concern.
5. What you write is your opinion, but this does not mean that you only should rely on your opinion to justify you issue/concern. You should build your letter based upon objective evidence and/or use a compelling story to add to your argument.

Questions to be addressed in the Report: (Please number appropriately):
1. What was the issue/concern that you addressed in your letter?
2. What news source(s) did you send your letter to? (If you did multiple letters please include each version and indicated where you send your letters.)
3. Why did you decide to submit your letter to the particular news source named above?
4. Did you get your letter printed? If so, provide the instructor with a copy or a link to the source.
5. Did you get any feedback on your letter in the news source? [If the letter is printed online, then did anyone comment on the letter? If so, describe the comments and provide links.]
6. Do you think this was a useful mechanism of Political Voice? Explain
7. On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 is the low and 10 is the high please provide a rating for how this activity relates to the following statement and provide a reason for giving you rating.
   a. The commitment to democratic society
   b. Making a difference in fostering civil society
   c. Relationship to lessons in class (provide an example if possible)
   d. Relationship to lessons in the book (provide an example if possible)