



How to Write a Letter to the Editor

Reimagine **possible**

Matt Watson | Strategy, Marketing and Communications

How to write a letter to the editor

Topics:

- Letter to the editor vs. guest column
- Choosing a topic
- Choosing a publication
- Writing a letter to the editor
- Submitting a letter to the editor

Letter to the editor vs. guest column

- **Letter to the editor**

- Can be written by anyone
- Usually a direct response to a published article
- Short (150-300 words)
- Good chance to be published

- **Guest column (opinion)**

- Usually written by subject expert
- Usually related to a current event or controversial topic
- Longer (500-800 words)
- Less likely to be published

Choosing a topic

- Can respond to a published article
- Timely, important, possibly controversial
- Personal connection

OPINION > OPINION COLUMNISTS

Janine Davidson: I helped with the last two transitions of power. It's time for Trump to start the next one.

For the overall health of our democracy and the security of the nation, it is time to put country over party and move forward.



Evan Vucci, The Associated Press
President Donald Trump listens during an event on Operation Warp Speed in the Rose Garden of the White House, Friday, Nov. 13, 2020, in Washington.

By **JANINE DAVIDSON** | Guest Commentary
November 20, 2020 at 11:31 a.m.

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Thirty years ago as an Air Force pilot, I swore a solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. I was proud to serve a country that stood for a set of ideals: freedom, justice, and democracy. Now, as the president of MSU Denver, I strive every day to put the American promise into practice — promoting values of fairness, equity, and integrity in higher education. The greatest injustice we can do as Americans is to take our democratic

Choosing a topic

- Find ideas from MSU Denver
 - Champions programs
 - red.msudenver.edu
 - msudenver.edu/about

#1 Monthly **PRIDEPOINT**
MSU Denver, a Hispanic-Serving Institution, educates 5,885 Hispanic or Latino undergraduates — more than any other university or college in Colorado.

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Dear MSU Denver Champion,

This month's PridePoint highlights MSU Denver as the **No. 1 university in Colorado for educating Hispanic or Latino undergraduate students**. As a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, MSU Denver currently serves 5,885 Hispanic or Latino students, more than any other college or university in the state.

You can learn more about what it means to be designated as a Hispanic-Serving Institution [here](#).

As a Champion | Spread the Word

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated in the U.S. from Sept. 15-Oct. 15, honoring the history and influence of Americans of Hispanic descent.

Let people know that MSU Denver is No. 1 in serving Hispanic and Latino students — educating **5,885 Hispanic or Latino undergraduates, more than any other two- or four-year college or university in Colorado**.

Head count of undergraduate Hispanic students enrolled in Colorado's public four-year institutions:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Metropolitan State University of Denver | 5,855 |
| University of Colorado Boulder | 3,856 |
| Colorado State University | 3,675 |
| University of Colorado Denver | 3,034 |
| University of Northern Colorado | 1,963 |
| Colorado Mesa University | 1,959 |
| University of Colorado Colorado Springs | 1,942 |
| Colorado Mountain College | 1,518 |
| Colorado State University - Pueblo | 1,227 |
| CSU-Global Campus | 1,157 |
| Adams State University | 708 |
| Colorado School of Mines | 544 |
| Western Colorado University | 457 |
| Fort Lewis College | 386 |

Source: <https://higher.educolorado.gov/Data/Search.aspx>

Upcoming Advocacy Event | Get Informed

Wednesday, Sept. 9 | Federal and State Higher Education Advocacy Panel
10 a.m. – 11 a.m. MDT | The conversation will focus on higher education advocacy and perceptions, best practices for how to influence policy and a realistic look at the next legislative session for higher education. MSU Denver Political Science faculty and students will moderate.

- Panelists state legislators: Sen. Brittany Pettersen (alumna), Rep. Lisa Cutter (alumna), Rep. Tom Sullivan (alumnus), Rep. Dominique Jackson (alumna) and Rep. Dafna Michaelson Jenet. Plus, a congressional staffer from U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet's office. | [Register here](#).

Encourage others to become MSU Denver Champions.
Help make higher education a priority.
Have a Voice. Have an Impact.



Contact | Michele McKinney | mmckin25@msudenver.edu

You are receiving this email because you signed up to be an MSU Denver Champion.

[Unsubscribe](#)



Choosing a publication

- Aim local
- Read submission guidelines
 - Word counts
 - Reference published article
- Read the publication!

THE DENVER POST



Westword®

Denverite

COLORADO NEWSLINE

Arvada Press, Englewood Herald,
Lakewood Sentinel, etc.

Writing a letter to the editor

- Tailor to publication/audience you chose
- Form a specific argument
- Gather facts and cite sources
- Make it personal and/or emotional
- Include a call to action
- Proof/spell-check



Now is the time to stand up for DACA recipients and Dreamers

BY JANINE DAVIDSON, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR — 05/05/20 12:00 PM EDT
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

583 COMMENTS

As the president of a [large public university](#) with close to 400 undocumented students, and many more Dreamers who have graduated and entered the workforce, it is my job to support these hard-working members of our community as they pursue the exceedingly more elusive American Dream.

These students strive to graduate in the midst of uncertainty that the rest of us don't have to worry about. It is time Congress passed real legislation to ensure these young adults can continue to contribute and thrive in the country they call home.

While most Americans are hunkered down at home, trying to imagine a post-pandemic return to normal, the Supreme Court is weighing whether over [800,000 DACA recipients](#), many of whom have lived in the United States almost their entire lives, will ever see normal again.

There are approximately [15,000 DACA recipients](#) in my home state of Colorado. Their economic and civic contributions [increase](#) significantly with the completion of a higher education degree. Their loss of DACA status would translate to a loss for our state's economy and society. Within the context of the COVID-19 national pandemic, these challenges only multiply.

The Center for American Progress estimated that removing all undocumented immigrants from the U.S. would reduce the country's gross domestic product by [\\$434 billion per year](#). But this is about more than their contributions to our economy.

DACA students at Metropolitan State University of Denver are working to become nurses, social workers, engineers and public servants. Even [one of our trustees](#), a first-generation college graduate who became a teacher, is a DACA recipient.

Nationwide, the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) reports in a recent [amicus brief](#) that there are over 27,000 DACA recipients currently working in critical health care professions and on the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis. These are the people who are needed to help this country combat the pandemic and who will help the country recover and compete afterward.

Along with [other university presidents and chancellors](#) in Colorado, I have urged my congressional representatives to automatically extend work authorization for DACA recipients for two years through legislation and simultaneously call upon the administration to do the same.

We have also asked for legislation that would provide permanent protection for Dreamers without hurting or penalizing other immigrant communities; and we've lobbied the administration to refrain from arresting, detaining or deporting Dreamers until Congress enacts permanent relief.

These are the short- and long-term solutions that are needed now to support these aspiring Americans who already contribute so much to our economy and communities, and who will help ensure our nation recovers and prospers beyond this current crisis.

Submitting a letter to the editor

- Engage one publication at a time
- Email to publication's specific email address for letters to the editor or complete web form
 - openforum@denverpost.com
 - opinion@coloradosun.com
- Include your contact info for publication follow-up
- Once published, share with your network

Questions/follow-up

- Matt Watson mwatso49@msudenver.edu
- Get more involved at msudenverchampions.com
- Visit red.msudenver.edu
- Follow MSU Denver on [social media](#)