Letter to the Editor Assignment

*This assignment requires you to do some critical thinking and to take action on something that you have said that you care about.*

**Step 1**: Spend some time reading the newspaper (either paper or online). You are looking for an article that a) relates in some way to the topic of your ‘I Have a Dream’ speech OR b) potentially would inspire you to write a different dream speech. MAKE SURE TO KEEP TRACK OF WHERE YOU FOUND YOUR ARTICLE. YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO EMAIL OR MAIL A LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

**Step 2:** Read the article and understand the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Think about why this article was written. What was the writer hoping to achieve? Did the writer do an effective job of achieving his or her goal?

**Step 3: Carefully review the ‘Letter to the Editor’ sample.**  Remind yourself of the key components of an effective letter to the editor. Brainstorm all of the potential things that you would like to include in your letter. You will need to decide if you are writing a letter praising the article or critiquing it. Be prepared to back up your position with specific evidence (either from the article or from other research).

**Step 4:** Create a Google Doc called “Letter to the Editor – your name” and share it with me as well as at least two other people in the class (you will need them to give you feedback).

**Step 5**: Write a draft of your letter. Once you have a draft, send a request to your peers to read over your letter and give you some feedback. You can use this time to read over the letters that have been shared with you and provide feedback to your peers also.

**Step 6:** Polish your letter based on the feedback and use the rubric to self-assess.

**Step 7:** Find out how to submit a letter to the editor to the source of your article.  
 Look up the email contact or the address.

**Step 8:** Check with me that you have effectively completed all steps before you send.