

TIPS FOR AUTHORS

Writing a “Letter to the Editor”

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Did you ever think about writing a letter to the editor of the *Journal of Prosthodontics*? We are not talking about a letter that simply relates an individual query or concern that would not be of particular interest to others, but rather the reader who wishes to share some thoughts with other readers about the direction of the discipline or the ACP. Or make suggestions for changes to the curriculum for certification or describe ideas relating to expansion of the readership or the range of topics covered by the *JOPR*.

The letter to the editor is a time-honored journalistic vehicle for the brief expression of one reader's views on a topic. This format allows for the expression of opinion—a kind of personal editorial. Although space limitations in the *JOPR* only allow for the occasional publication of such letters, the editorial staff is always glad to hear from readers—whether the comments are favorable or unfavorable.

Occasionally, the *JOPR* publishes thoughtful, relatively brief statements by readers on a topic or issue of interest to the profession. Such letters can make an important contribution to the discussion of relevant issues. For readers thinking about

composing such a letter to the *JOPR*, please keep the following suggestions in mind.

The letter should be substantive and concise. Begin with a specific and clear statement of the topic or issues you wish to discuss. Incorporate constructive and well-grounded suggestions along with comments or criticisms. Length should be limited to approximately 750 words or fewer. If you are making a statement of fact, it should be referenced, preferably, but not necessarily, to a peer-reviewed publication.

Should the *JOPR* choose to publish your letter, the editorial staff will work with you to “polish” it for publication. We may also choose to edit it for space concerns. However, we will **never** publish an edited version of your letter without first receiving your approval to print the edited version.

Please note that these informal guidelines only apply to letters that may ultimately be published. We are always happy to receive shorter, informal letters and emails that express your thoughts and opinions about the *Journal of Prosthodontics*. And while, of course, we prefer positive letters of praise, critical letters of complaint are read just as seriously. Our readers' feedback is always important to us.

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