

SAMPLE LETTER TO THE EDITOR - SECURE FIREARM STORAGE



A great way to spread the ASK message is through your local newspaper. Many local and regional news outlets regularly accept letters to the editor (LTEs) and opinion pieces. Use the tips below to write an LTE spreading the ASK message.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (LTE) PLACEMENT TIPS:

1. Find details on how to submit an LTE on an outlet's website. Example [here](#).
2. When possible, tie your letter to a recent news article or other letter.
3. Customize your LTE by including a personal story or experience.
4. Check the outlet submission guidelines, but LTEs are generally 150-200 words in length.

To the Editor:

I am heartbroken to read the story about [reference recent local news of an unintentional shooting here]. Unfortunately, these tragedies are all too common, but they can be prevented.

According to Brady: United Against Gun Violence, about 6.7 million children in America live in homes with unlocked and loaded guns, and one-third of adolescents report they can access a loaded firearm in under 5 minutes. Each year, thousands of kids are injured or killed as a result.

Storing firearms securely — locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition — is a key way to reduce these tragedies, known as “[family fire](#).” If just 20% of households with firearms locked up their guns, we could prevent one-third of youth gun suicides and unintentional shooting deaths. Securely storing your firearms and [asking others](#) about unsecured guns, especially in homes that kids visit, is vital.

Parents already ask all types of questions before their children visit other homes — like about food, allergies, and screen time. Adding one more question to that list: “Is there an unlocked gun where my child plays?” — can save lives.

Brady, the nation's oldest gun violence prevention organization, has tips on how you can start these conversations at [askingsaveskids.org](#).

Through honest conversations around the risks of guns falling into the hands of children and the importance of safe storage, we can reduce the number of family fire-related injuries and deaths. It's in our hands.

Sincerely,

Your Name

Address

Phone Number

