Assignment Option One: Write a Letter

Throughout this lesson, you have explored the question: “How can improvements be made to the soundscape of marine mammals through action, legislation, and information?” Using what you know, or additional information from a variety of sources, write a letter that would make a difference. Make sure you include facts, statistics, examples, or experiences to support your ideas.

Be sure to address the following in your letter:

* Where will you send the letter?
* Magazine or specialty publication
* Newspaper
* Person of influence, such as a CEO (chief executive officer of a company), politician, or public figure
* What issue do you want addressed, and what evidence will you use to validate your opinion?
* What response do you expect, and what value will that response bring to the recipient?

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| **Category** | **4** | **3** | **2** | **1** |
| Focus and intent. | The focus and intent is clearly outlined and the work stays on topic. | The focus is stated, but not completely followed. | The focus is difficult to discern within the work. | The focus is unknown. |
| Supporting evidence..  | Includes three or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, or experiences) that support ideas. The writer anticipates the reader’s arguments and provides counter-arguments.  | Includes three or more pieces of evidence (facts, statistics, examples, experiences) that support the writer’s ideas.  | Includes two pieces of evidence that support the writer’s ideas.  | Includes one piece of evidence and it may be questionable.  |
| Audience.  | Demonstrates a clear understanding of the potential reader and uses appropriate vocabulary and arguments. | Demonstrates general understanding of the potential reader and uses vocabulary and arguments to support these ideas.  | Demonstrates some understanding of the reader, but occasionally provides arguments that are unsuitable for the audience. | It is not clear who the author is writing for. |
| Evidence and examples.  | All of the evidence is specific, relevant, and includes examples of how each piece of evidence supports the author’s position. | Most of the evidence and examples are specific, relevant, and show how each piece of evidence supports the author’s position.  | At least one piece of evidence provided, and examples are relevant and show evidence of support for the author’s position. | Evidence and examples are not relevant, nor are they explained.  |
| Sources  | Source information collected for all elements, including quotations and is presented in the proper format.  | Sources are collected for most sources and are in the required format. | Sources are collected, though some may be missing, and they are not in the required format. | Very little source information included.  |
| Letter has been proofread for spelling, grammar, and accuracy, and includes name and date. | No mistakes. | 1-2 mistakes. | 2-4 mistakes. | Many mistakes are evident. |