

Letter to the Editor Templates

Youth Exchange Student (US)

In times of conflict, many people are thinking about the future of international relations. We feel that now is a good time to emphasize Rotary's goal of world understanding and peace. Rotary International's Youth Exchange programs give students a unique perspective on intercultural exchange and understanding.

We ask that Youth Exchange officers encourage current and former Youth Exchange students to spread the word of Rotary's good work in promoting international goodwill by writing a letter to the editor of their hometown newspaper.

Below is a sample letter that interested students can use as a guideline. They can personalize it, add their own reflections, and send it to the editor of their local newspaper. The editorial page is generally one of the most well-read sections of the newspaper, and their letter is likely to reach many people.

Dear Editor,

In times of conflict world peace and understanding are more important than ever. During the past year, it is clear that broadening our international understanding is critical. Efforts to encourage the study of foreign cultures provide opportunities for all students to broaden their knowledge of the world. *"International education not only promotes mutual understanding and cooperation among nations, it can also strengthen national security, foreign policy, and economic competitiveness. Indeed, our quality of education and life will be enhanced by learning foreign languages and by facilitating international exchanges for students and teachers."*

U.S. Secretary of Education, Rod Paige.

As a Rotary International Youth Exchange student, I have immersed myself in a new culture to further the ongoing mission to strengthen world understanding. The program sends 15- to 19-year-olds abroad to study and live with a host family as a way to foster intercultural exchange. The Youth Exchange program has given me the chance to enrich myself both academically and culturally and the chance to promote international goodwill throughout the global community. Thanks to the Rotary Club of [City, State], I am studying in [City, Country] for [amount of time]. [Add several sentences of personal reflections]

As the world fights against hatred and intolerance, I am reminded of what so many of us learn as students abroad - cultural differences make us unique, but our differences are not what ultimately matter. We can all work together to foster cross-cultural respect, peace and understanding worldwide. I'm thankful to Rotary International for giving me the experience of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

Youth Exchange Student

Rotary International