

# Together, Kids Can Change the World!

**GOAL: To work with a group to take action to make the world a better place.**

When she was only 9, Alaina Podmorow heard a talk about the poor conditions that girls face in Afghanistan. When he was only 12, Craig Kielburger read a newspaper article about child labour. When she was only 5, Hannah Taylor saw a homeless person eating out of a garbage can. What these Canadian kids have in common is that they decided to do something about the problems that they saw. In Grade 5, Alaina started **Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan**. Together with other kids, she works to raise money to pay the salaries of teachers for girls in Afghanistan. In 1995, Craig started **Free the Children** with 11 friends to fight child labour, and it now works in 45 countries. By the time she was 10, Hannah had started the **Ladybug Foundation** to work towards finding solutions to the problem of homelessness. All three continue to work with others to solve the problems that they care about. Would you like to join the ranks of world-changing kids making the world a better place? Follow these steps below to start changing the world!

1. What issue are you committed to doing something about? Find out if there is already a group that you can work with. For instance, you can start your own chapter of Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan, you can make a ladybug jar to help the homeless, or you can "Adopt a Village" with Free the Children.
2. Whether you decide to work with a group that is already running or start one of your own to start solving a different problem that you are keen about, get your classmates, friends, and family on board. When it comes to taking action, the more people the better! Keep a list of group members and phone numbers and emails.
3. Plan to meet regularly (once every week or two), and make sure everyone knows where the meetings will be and what to bring.
4. Work together to decide what action to take. You can a) make posters to spread the word about your issue, b) write and pass out newsletters or flyers to raise awareness about the issue, c) write a letter to the editor of your local paper, d) make speeches or announcements at your school, e) collect signatures on a petition, and f) organize events to raise funds to do something to help solve the problem you are tackling. Start by taking on a small task. As you get more experienced, take on bigger challenges!
5. When taking action, remember to plan ahead and be organized. The more work you put in ahead of time, the smoother events and actions will go. Remember to farm out jobs to group members. This spreads the work around and keeps everyone involved.
6. Most importantly, have fun! Think of themes for events, and create a holiday atmosphere for the work that your group does to make the world a better place. The more exciting you make it, the more successful your actions and events will be!



# How to Write a Letter to the Editor

# 123 - 1234 Any Street  
Sometown, Ontario A1B 2C3

November 1, 2009

John Wordfixer, Editor  
The Local Newspaper  
9876 Main Street  
Sometown, Ontario A1B 4D5

Dear Mr. Wordfixer:

The Sometown chapter of Little Women for Little Women in Afghanistan is concerned about [*describe the issue that your group is committed to doing something about here...*].

It is important for people to know that [*add some important facts that you have learned about your issue here, but remember to be careful to find accurate information and word it in a way that sticks to the facts...*].

We think that people should consider [*describe some action or actions that people can take to do something about the issue...*].

In order to raise funds to pay the salaries of teachers for girls, we are going to be [*describe your planned event here, including the place, time, and idea behind the event...*].

Thank you for considering the situation of girls in Afghanistan and helping us to do something to help them.

Yours sincerely,

*Jill Worldchanger*

Jill Worldchanger

This is the **heading**: it has your complete address and the date of the letter so the person you send it to can tell where you are writing from and when you wrote the letter.

This is the **inside address**: it has the complete address of the person you are writing to. Include the person's title if you know it.

This is the **salutation**: it is your greeting to the person you are writing to.

All the writing in between the salutation and the closing is the **body**: it contains the substance of what you are writing about. Write about **1)** who you are, **2)** what the issue is and why you care about it, and **3)** possible solutions or actions that people can take. Also explain and promote any events or actions that your group is planning.

This is the **closing**: capitalize the first word but not the second.

Include your **signature** above your name in type.

Structure for a business letter taken from *Write on Track: A Handbook for Young Writers, Thinkers, and Learners* by Dave Kemper, Ruth Nathan, and Patrick Sebranek, published by International Thomson Publishing in 1998.

For ideas about writing other types of letters to help with youth action, see *Take Action! A Guide to Active Citizenship* by Marc and Craig Kielburger, published by Gage Learning Corporation in 2002.

