

From *The New York Times* Learning Network:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/learning/students/letters/submit.html>

### **Children's Guidelines: The Learning Network**

[The Learning Network](#) is a free service for parents, teachers and students, and does not require registration. The [Student Connections](#) section is specifically directed at students, grades 6 to 12; within this section, the [Ask a Reporter](#) page, the [Student Letters](#) page, and the [Science Q&A](#) page allow students to either send a question to a Times reporter or submit a "letter to the editor," providing their first name, grade, school and state/country. The information requested on these pages is used solely for participation in these activities, and is not stored or sold to third parties. No more information is collected than is necessary to provide our services. If the question or letter is published, only the student's first name, grade, and state/country appear on the site. Students are advised to consult with their parents before giving personal information online.

### **Send a Letter to the Editor:**

Be certain to include your first name, grade level and home state or country. If you provide us with your e-mail address, we will be able to write you should your letter be published on our site. We cannot return or acknowledge unpublished letters.

If selected for publication, your letter will be credited with your first name and grade level. We will not post your e-mail address anywhere on our site.

### **New York Times Letter #1**

To the Editor:

I think that it is a smart decision for colleges to look up their new students to check their background. For all those who go to college and don't know nearly half the students, they would feel safer knowing that one of their classmates or other person who goes to that college isn't a terrorist or something like that. The administration being able to check up on where these immigrants came from eases their nervousness and helps them get on with their lives easier. The more security put into this country, the more this country will be safe against all terrorism and other bad occurrences.

*Miriam*  
*Grade 11*  
*1/28/02*

### **New York Times Letter #2**

To the Editor:

I wholeheartedly agree with commissioner Kelly in this move. When the people of New York City see that there is someone in charge to specifically fight terrorism, even though the person might not make too much of a difference in the end, it comforts them and therefore negates the effects of terrorism.

I also agree to his decision to use a former Marine and C.I.A espionage agent rather than a police official because I believe that they are better fit for the job since they have more experience in relaying information and fighting underhanded schemes such as terrorism. The police can handle situations such as murder or rape, but they are not trained to fight a threat such as this.

With these new officials, police will finally be working closer with the F.B.I. and C.I.A. so that they will finally be able to relay information to help domestic safety. For the first time police will know who to be on the lookout for, along with what specific behavior has been used by terrorists. For the first time I think that the local authorities actually have a fighting shot at protecting the public from acts of terrorism.

*Marcus*  
*Grade 11*  
*1/30/02*

From the *Sacramento Bee*

**Letters Policy**

Please include your name, address and daytime phone number. Letters may be edited and republished in any format. All letters submitted become the property of The Sacramento Bee. Visit <http://www.sacbee.com/voices> for more info.

**MAIL:** Letters, P.O. Box 15779, Sacramento, CA 95852

**E-MAIL:** [opinion@sacbee.com](mailto:opinion@sacbee.com)

**To Fight—or Not—in Iraq**  
Sacramento Bee Letter #1

*Published 5:30 a.m. PST Monday, February 25, 2002*

Re "Targeting Iraq," Our Views, Feb. 17: The Bee concluded that the United States should not start unilateral military operations against Iraq. My view is that we should move against Iraq immediately and alone if a coalition cannot quickly be formed.

Iraq is controlled by militant Islamics who will not hesitate to use the nuclear and biological weapons they are frantically developing.

Islamic jihad (holy war) has the worldwide mission of killing all infidels (anyone not converting to Islam). This is clearly stated in the Koran, and the terrorist suicide bombings in Israel during preceding decades and on Sept. 11 are ample proof of this fact. Militant Islam sees itself in a revival to regain its power of earlier centuries, and it will stop at nothing to try to make this happen.

Are we going to wait until we see the death of possibly millions in this country before we take action against Iraq? If we don't take out the entire civilian and military leadership in Iraq very soon we will suffer in the near future as never before.

--Russ Miner, Foresthill

**Televising justice**  
Sacramento Bee Letter #2

Two compelling, yet opposing, viewpoints pervade the debate over televising terrorist trials. Some do not want to provide a forum for sensationalism before an audience of millions through mass media. They argue that this is not the time to aid and abet evil people and hateful fanatics with global access to "inform" sleeper cells through possible coded messages. I appreciate those concerns, but for me they pale in comparison with the opportunity we could have to enlighten the world of what it means to be an American and the value of life and justice.

On "live" television, this process will illustrate how a civilized and free nation, governed by a constitution, moral code and a public trust, can still maintain the rule of law in the face of overwhelming pain and loss. In addition, the Islamic religion can be vindicated of the destructive characterizations that have been created to justify and define the mind of a radical fundamentalist.

--Linda Kamras, Carmichael