

Example Letter to the Editor Worksheet

1. What is the title of the book you are writing about?

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

2. What character have you chosen? Give a short description of the character and tell why the character is important to the novel.

Roy Eberhardt is the main character and the book tells about his life.

3. What issue is most important to this character? What topic would the character be most likely to write a letter to the editor about?

Saving the burrowing owls that live on the site where a new restaurant is going to be built. The new building will ruin their home.

4. What are the character's feelings on this issue?

Roy feels really sorry for the owls, maybe because he's had to move so many times himself. He's also very mad at Mother Paula's because they don't care about the animals.

5. What would the character want someone else to do about this issue? What would the character want others to think or do?

Roy wants the people at Mother Paula's not to build on the site. He wants people who read his letter to help pressure the company to move their building to another site.

6. Fill in the table below to outline the main reasons that the character would use to convince others to think or do something about the issue. Use the back if you need more space.

Main Reasons	How Reasons Will Persuade Others
The site for the restaurant is the owl's home. They make their nests and raise their babies in underground holes there.	If they lose their homes, the owls may not be able to find another. Or they may try to defend their homes and die.
The owls are protected by state and federal laws. It is illegal to harm them or their homes without a special permit.	Since the owls are protected by the law, people will urge Mother Paula's not to break the law.
The Environmental Impact Statement for the location where the restaurant is going to be built is missing.	The statement is important because it will mention the owls. The fact that it is missing suggests there is a problem.
Mother Paula's All-American House of Pancakes ignores the concerns, and the site foreman says there are no owls.	The way that the company behaves will show that they don't care about the owls or the environment.