

**LIB101**  
**Assignment #7: Finding Government Documents**  
**Due In Class February 26th, 2002**

For this week's assignment, imagine that you have just read one of the letters to the editor (below) in your local newspaper. After reading the letter, you are inspired to submit your own letter to the newspaper. However, before having your opinion published for everyone to read you want to make sure that your facts are correct.

Choose one of the letters below, and find **two** government documents about that subject (one may be an electronic or web resource, but at least one should be a print resource owned by Knight Library). Write your own letter to the editor either supporting or challenging the opinion in the sample letters below. Include in your letter information from your government documents that supports your argument. Be sure to include the title of the document (and any other pertinent information) in your letter so that your readers could find your sources if they want to check your facts. You don't need to do a full MLA or APA style citation for the documents.

1. Dear Editor: Health care in this country is awful! The average person can't afford to pay for health insurance on their own, and if you don't have a job that provides health insurance, you have to pay hundreds or thousands of dollars just to see a doctor! Even if you have insurance, if you get in an accident or need major surgery, you will still end up paying a lot of money out of pocket. That is if you can even find a doctor who will take your insurance! The United States health care system needs major reform! The U.S. should have a health care system like that of most European countries, where health care is provided free for all citizens.
2. Dear Editor: This country's drug laws are stupid. A person can kill someone and go to jail for 2 years, or get caught smoking a joint and spend the next ten years in jail! Everybody's doing it--at some point everyone has either tried it, been offered it, or know people who use it. Why is it such a big crime just to get a little buzz? Alcohol's legal, and many people have far more problems with drinking than with occasional recreational use of pot. And what of all those people with cancer who use marijuana to get a little relief--they shouldn't go to jail for that. The United States should legalize marijuana and concentrate on the "real" criminals.
3. Dear Editor: America's war on terrorism is a joke. Who do they really think they're after? An entire country? Will bombing Afghanistan (or any other country) really stop the actions of one man? This bombing will just make more people mad at the United States, who will come and attack us to strike back. We should just focus on our own problems at home--like homelessness and the bad economy--rather than spending billions of dollars to bomb innocent civilians.

**Please type or word-process your letters! Your letter should be between one paragraph and one page--whatever length you feel is necessary to make a solid argument.**