

## Writing

## Should everyone be included?

*Letters to the Editor*

Mrs. Land sent a letter to the editor of the *Mapleville Chronicle* to complain that Sudanese families were not being **integrated** into the community. Mr. Fabriccio, another Mapleville resident, wrote his own letter saying that Mrs. Land's position was wrong.

Read the letters carefully. Think about the issue and form your own opinion. Then, write a persuasive letter to the *Mapleville Chronicle* with your own opinion and suggestions to address this issue.

**Remember to:**

- Remind the reader what Mrs. Land and Mr. Fabriccio said (their positions)
- Write your own opinion about the issue
- Give reasons to support your opinion
- Include focus words to make your writing stronger

Dear Chronicle Editor,

I am very worried about our new Sudanese neighbors. When I have visited the schools, I have found that the children are in separate classrooms and **isolated** in groups at lunch. I think separating these students into their own classrooms keeps them from **integrating** into the school community. How can they get to know their new classmates if they're not together?

There is another problem that the Sudanese families face. Mapleville's most important community event, the Mapleville Festival, is scheduled during a very special religious holiday they celebrate. If we don't change the date, these families will not be able to participate. How can we allow our friends to be excluded from the most important community event of the year?

They are **dependent** on us so we should be considerate. Our Sudanese friends **require** our help to succeed. I hope that this letter helps community members pay more attention to these serious issues. Let's be good neighbors!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Land

Dear Chronicle Editor,

I was very troubled by Mrs. Land's letter published a couple of days ago. I think our community has been—and continues to be—a very welcoming place for the new families. Some people think isolating Sudanese students into special classes is bad. But I think this is the best thing we can do to make sure they learn English quickly. I also think the students are **integrating** into the local schools very well. Just look at the soccer teams! We love having Sudanese stars represent our schools!

As a community, we have already worked hard to help them get here and get settled. But I don't think we are **required** to change *everything* to help them succeed. Moving the Mapleville Festival is simply too expensive. The economy is bad, and we want this year's festival to bring a lot of visitors to Mapleville. The Sudanese should consider adjusting their holiday traditions so they can participate in our important community event.

Sincerely,

Good Neighbor Fabriccio