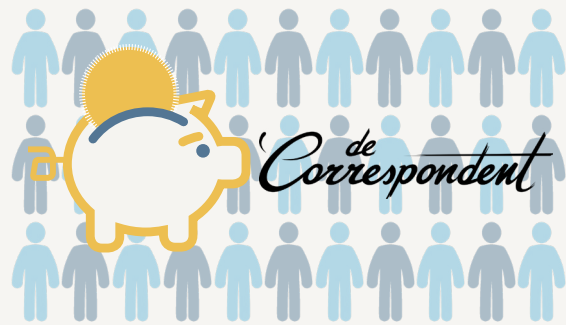
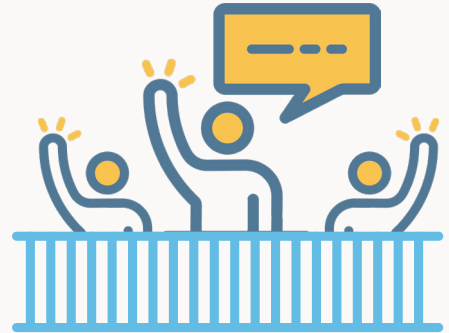




A 'Contributions' Section

■ WHAT IS IT?

De Correspondent's "contributions" section is like a comments section with guard rails and a how-to guide. Featured beneath all stories on [the site](#), the contributions section explicitly invites readers to share their "experience and knowledge" — instead of their opinions. "This may seem like a minor detail," publisher [Ernst-Jan Pfauth wrote](#), "but the first step to great reader contributions is an articulation of your expectations."



■ WHO'S BEHIND IT?

[De Correspondent](#) is a Dutch news startup that launched in 2013 after [crowdfunding \\$1.7 million](#), making it at the time the most successful journalism crowdfunding campaign [in history](#). The company now has more than [50,000 paying members](#) in the Netherlands and is working with New York University professor [Jay Rosen](#) and the [Membership Puzzle Project](#) on plans to [launch an English-language edition](#) in the U.S.

■ DOES IT WORK?

An [experiment](#) by The Atlantic's Adam Felder found that the comments change how people see the article itself — for better or worse. De Correspondent editor-in-chief [Rob Wijnberg](#) says he sees "[a lot less](#)" toxicity in their comments section than elsewhere. Articles on the site often receive 100 or more contributions, many of which [add context or additional information to the original reports](#).



■ HOW TO DO IT

Only De Correspondent's paying members, using their real names, may leave contributions. They are asked to "share what you know" — one of 10 "[house rules](#)" — as well as to stay on topic and not to treat De Correspondent as a diary. The outlet's correspondents [participate](#) and redirect conversations that veer off course. When a violation occurs, editors delete the comment and email the offender to remind them of the rules.