Dear [insert name of school or person here]:

My name is [insert name] and I am writing to share information on how to strengthen representation of the Pakistani American community in your library collection.

Immigration from Pakistan to the United States began as early as the 19th century, when small numbers of workers came from the Punjab region in South Asia for work in California, Oregon, and Washington. Today, the community is estimated to be over 500,000 strong and its professional, civic, and cultural influence are visible across numerous industries and sectors in the United States.

We believe public and school libraries in our country would benefit from books that tell the stories of Pakistani Americans. Unfortunately, many collections have a long way to go to achieve this representation. There are ways, thankfully, to address this issue. The American Pakistan Foundation, a U.S.-based non-profit and non-partisan organization committed to building bridges and community empowerment, offers [a list of books](http://www.americanpakistan.org/apf-book-list) for children, young adult/pre-teen, and adult readers on the stories and experiences of Pakistani Americans. [It can be viewed at their website](http://www.americanpakistan.org/apf-book-list). We encourage you to select books for your own collection based on this list.

Reading stories about people who come from a different background or set of experiences builds empathy and civil discourse. These are values I care deeply about and I know your organization does too. I hope to see some of these books in your collection soon! If you would like to speak more about the list or topics covered by the books, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Insert Your Name Here]

[Optional: Insert Your Contact Information Here]