

Participation in Government Political Action Letters

Name _____

As a citizen of the United States of America, it is not only a right, it is a responsibility to participate in the political process. Being able to petition our lawmakers is one of the greatest responsibilities that we have as Americans.

Write a letter to your local NY state representative/state senator or county executive detailing a policy, law or spending practice that you would like to support or change. You may have to research the issues and where the office holder stands on that issue to become informed.

Part 1:

- Think about an issue that is important to you, your family or your community
 - Could this issue be improved by government intervention?
 - What are some solutions you can think to improve the issue?

Part 2:

- Do some research to find answers to the following questions:
 - What government agency can help you improve the issue?
 - Who is in a position of authority within that agency?
 - Determine who to write the letter to.

Part 3:

- Write a letter to the person or people that can help improve the issue you have chosen.

Letter Criteria:

- In proper business letter format
- Addressed to a specific local NY government official
- Well written, have correct spelling and grammar
- Detail the policy in question
- Clearly outlines why you support/don't support the policy
- Any ideas of how to change the policy

Some ideas on how to come up with a topic for your letter:

- What is an issue that you feel is unfair to a person your age?
- Do you have a job? Do you wish there were more jobs? How do you feel about the minimum wage? What about the number of hours you work? Do you feel that health and safety practices are important in the job that you have?
- Do you plan to go to college? How are you going to pay for it? Do you think that financial aid is acceptable in New York? Are there things you would like to see changed?
- Is there a public health issue in your area? Drug problems? Mental Health issues? Lack of adequate medical facilities or access to medical facilities?
- How is crime in your area?
- Are there green spaces, parks or sports complexes?

The letter needs to be in proper form and typed, it will be graded and then you have the option of e-mailing or sending it to the proper government agency. .