Writing Your Congressman Project

Instructions: You will write a letter to one of your congressmen by following these instructions:

1. Get a computer, log on and open Google Chrome.

2. Search in Google: "Who is my Senator?"

3. Select the first option: "[Senators - U.S. Senate](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)"

* Enter your state to see your senators. Use the information you find to fill out this chart.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name and Political Party | Address | Phone Number |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

4. Do a new search in Google: "Who is my Congressman?"

5. Select the first option: [**Find Your**Representative**· House.gov**](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/)

* Enter your home zip code to see your representative (use the information to fill out this chart)
* Click on his/her name
* On your worksheet:
	+ Find and write down the Representative’s District number
	+ Find and write down their address in Washington D.C. and your home state

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name and Political Party | District Number | Address (home state) | Address (D.C.) |
|  |  |  |  |

#### Follow the instructions on the back of this worksheet to write to your congressman.

## Letter Writing Instructions (You will only write 1 letter to 1 Congressman)

1. Open a new Word document

2. Choose a topic (see attached page for interesting issues to write about) and a congressman to write to.

* Keep it simple, Your letter should address a single topic or issue.

3. Type a one-page, three paragraph letter using the following structure:

4. Format:

* Use the following information to properly format and write your letter.

To Your Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

To Your Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
(Room #) (Name) House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

 Paragraph One: Say why you are writing and who you are. List your "credentials." (If you want a response, you must include your name and address, even when using email.)

 Paragraph Two: Provide more detail. Be factual not emotional. Provide specific rather than general information about how the topic affects you and others. If a certain bill is involved, cite the correct title or number whenever possible.

 Paragraph Three: Close by requesting the action you want taken: a vote for or against a bill, or change in general policy. Say who you are, anonymous letters go nowhere, include a name and address so you might get a response.

Sincerely,

Elijah Wooden

435 Park Street

Columbus, OH 43227

#### Please submit this paper by emailing it to Mr. Richardson at JRichardson@patriotprep.com

# Possible issues to write about:

You need to look at current bills being voted on in order to write a well-informed letter.

* http://www.opencongress.org/
* https://www.popvox.com/bills

Or you may choose to state your opinion on some of these controversial topics:

* Terrorism
* Death penalty
* Gay Marriage
* Abortion
* Legalizing marijuana
* Healthcare
* Stem cell research
* Minimum wage laws
* Immigration
* Privacy (online, etc.)
* Gun control
* Discrimination
* Profiling
* Prayer in schools
* Teaching Evolution in schools
* Ukraine Conflict
* If you choose another topic please confirm with your teacher before writing your letter.

No matter what topic you choose please do a small amount of research (at least Wikipedia it) in order to be knowledgeable about your topic.