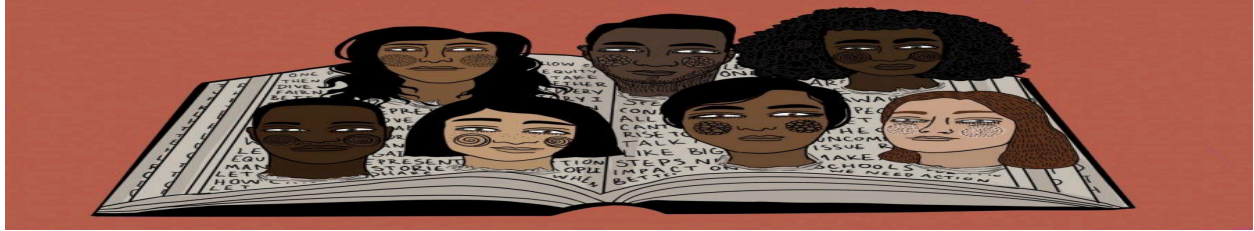


Write a LETTER to your congress representative!

Essay #3 Due: Tuesday, December 9th. Upload to CANVAS by 11:59pm (1500 word requirement, double spaced, plus a works cited page)

Select a topic for discussion and take action!



Our voices are loudest the closer we are to home. Reaching out to local representatives is likely to get a faster and more meaningful response.

- Find out who your U.S. Representative is by clicking on this link: [Find Your Representative](#)

Find out what civic issues you hear people in your community talking about.

- Step 1: Think about a recent, in-person discussion about a civic issue that you were a part of or observed.

Example 1: I was discussing with a friend of mine who volunteered at the Vaccine Super Station in Chula Vista about why some Mexicans refuse to get the Covid-19 vaccine. The problem is that Latinos in San Diego have the lowest vaccination rates, but yet have the highest numbers of covid-19 cases.

Example 2: I was discussing with my significant other my concern about the amount of youth passing away from a drug overdose. It is disheartening for me to hear stories from friends and former students who have lost someone due to an overdose.

- Step 2: Interview 2 people for this project, and figure out what issues they're most concerned about. [Click here for more information.](#)
- Step 3: Review conversations your friends are having on social media about social issues, and think about what stood out to you or what did you notice when you read each comment in the thread.
- **Select one social issue of concern to you after you have completed all the steps.**

An Open Letter to your congress representative



Objective: Finding a topic and organizing an argument based on your problem-solving skills.

Writing Instructions:

Choose an issue worth writing about. Gather information from multiple sources, develop a claim and write a complete argument draft on why this issue matters to you, and a proposal for your congress representative on how to fix the problem.

Here are some guiding questions for you to consider:

Why does this issue matter to you?

Why does this topic matter to your community or a larger population?

How does your personal experience connect to the nation?

Who else does this issue matter to?

Who is affected by the issue?

What are the causes and effects of this issue?

What can be done in response to this issue?

What are the different perspectives on this issue? Does everyone believe the same thing? What can a President or government do about the issue?

Finding Sources by Asking Researchable Questions:

- Find at least **three sources** that provide information on the issue and the reason it matters will be useful for this letter.
- Source material can come in many ways (articles, videos, infographics, speeches, charts, news articles, scholarly journals, Ted Talks, policies/laws.) can open the possibilities for sources for your letter. [Click here to find sources for your letter](#). You'll need to log in with your student ID and password to access the MiraCosta College database. [For local news sources click here](#).
- Include a Works Cited page at the end of your letter. [Click here for instructions on how to use MLA format for a Works Cited page](#)

Develop 2-3 research questions that you will address in your letter

General Topic/Questions	Researchable Questions
My Topic: Overdose among youth Why does this issue matter to you? Why does this topic matter to a larger population? How does your personal experience connect to the nation? Who else does this issue matter to? Who is affected by the issue? What are the causes and effects of this issue? What can be done in response to this issue? What are the different perspectives on this issue? Does everyone believe the same thing? What can a President or the government do about the issue?	Why do the youth of today struggle with drug addiction? What are the percentages and age groups of youth across the nation that die per year due to an overdose? How can we prevent an overdose among teens and young adults?

Strategies for Mapping an Organization for your letter:

Once you've selected a topic and important sources for your letter, you'll have enough information to start writing. However, when using sources and creating an argument letter you'll need to organize your ideas with an introduction, a body, and a conclusion.



- **Introduction to the problem** (with a claim that conveys your stance on the issue & your proposed solution).
- **Background information on the issue.**
- **Causes of the issue**
- **Effects: Who and How** (use personal & specific examples)
- **Varying perspectives & Why this issue matters** (use personal & specific examples)
- **What can be done to alleviate the issue**
- **Call to action** (What are you asking of your congress representative to do)

Getting Started

Sample Claim: School Testing

Claim: With the rise in school testing over the last ten years, stress levels of students has also risen so one issue worth considering in the next four years is reducing the amount of testing students do in schools.

Sample Claim: Drug overdose

Claim: With the projected increase in fentanyl-related fatal overdoses in San Diego by the end of 2021, it is worth creating a robust preventive program where free mental health services are offered to people who struggle with depression, in addition to creating awareness programs.

Strategies for Adding Sources:

[Click here to see how you can integrate quotes or paraphrases into your letter.](#)

