

# Letter to Congressman Project

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## **OBJECTIVE:**

Students will demonstrate civic responsibility by writing a letter to a member of Congress about the issue of immigration.

## **GOALS:**

WHST 9:1 Produce clear and coherent writing.

SS.IS 1 9-12 Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.

SS. IS 6 9-12 Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.

## **UNIT PROJECT:**

**You are to write a letter to a member of Congress stating your views on immigration.**

**You may write to the following Congressman:**

- U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (Democrat)

## **Tips on writing your letter**

Senators and Representatives pay attention to their mail (both regular and e-mail). It's good politics. Responding to mail is crucial to reelection. Members know your vote can be won or lost by their response. The most effective letter is a personal one, not a form letter. The letter should be short, informed and polite.

### **Some specific tips:**

1. Try to stick to one page;
2. Be polite and concise. Refrain from making threats or ultimatums.
3. In a short paragraph, state your purpose.
4. Support your position with examples (evidence) in the rest of the letter.
5. Be factual and support your position with information about how the issue is likely to affect you and others. You can use the articles we read in class or you own research on the computer. Be sure to include the sources of your information (websites, articles, etc.)
6. Ask for something to be done about the issue and suggest something reasonable to be done.

**Your Name**

**Address**

Springfield, IL **Zip Code**

**Date**

The Honorable **(name of congressman or senator)** of the <United States Senate> OR  
<United States House of Representatives>

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Dear Senator Dick Durbin:

I am... **(tell them who you are and where you're from)** I'm writing to you about  
the issue of... **(what issue have we been studying)** and then **(State your  
position on the issue, for or against)**

*(Next, use facts and details regarding your position/argument to show you have researched it. Use  
textual information from the articles we read. Don't just list facts but weave them into the position  
you've taken.) 5 sentences (2 pieces of textual evidence)*

Textual Evidence

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Thoughts About the Textual Evidence

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*(Close by asking if they can do something about it and what you would like done) 2 sentences.*

If you could... **(ask them to do something and tell them what they should do)**

Sincerely,

**Your Name**

