

Write a Letter to Congress

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What do you care deeply about? Some people care that others have enough warm clothing. To help, they collect coats and donate them to those in need. Some

care about pollution. To help, they pick up trash on the side of the road. These people go to neighbors for donations or pick up trash bags to solve a problem.

There are other ways to help, too. One way is to talk about things you care about. You can learn about problems, then talk about them with friends and family. People will listen if you have researched your issue.

Another way to tell others about your concerns is to write a letter to someone in government. How would you choose someone to write to? Find out who is responsible for that area. For example, if you think your town should recycle more plastic, ask your parents, a teacher, or a librarian who is responsible for recycling in your town. Another way to find the information is to go online to your town's Web site.

You might also care about problems that are happening across the country. In this case, you'd write to congress. The United States Congress makes laws for the whole country. The people who are elected to Congress are called representatives or senators. Their job is to represent the people who elect them. If people in congress know what you think, they can pass laws to help you.

When you write a letter, be polite. Open your letter in a formal way, such as: Dear Senator (last name) or Dear Representative (last name). Then clearly state what your issue is and why you care about it. Sign your letter and include your address so the person can answer your letter.

Voicing your opinions is an important way to make a difference in the world. You can help others learn, and you can also help solve our country's problems.



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