

**MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD**

2-3 Days

OBJECTIVE:

Students recognize the importance of participation in a democracy, and that citizens have social and political responsibilities.

MATERIALS:

Make Your Voice Heard Handout

INSTRUCTIONS:

- ✓ Copy and distribute the "Make Your Voice Heard" handout to the class. Ask students to fill in the contact information for their elected officials using the Internet, phone books, or library resources.
- ✓ Brainstorm with the class to determine 3-5 issues about which the students feel strongly.
- ✓ Divide the class into small groups of three to five students, assigning each one of the topics.
- ✓ Ask each group to compose a letter or email to send to an elected official.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ✓ How do the different responsibilities of local, state, and federal representatives impact each level has on student lives.
- ✓ Ask students to brainstorm other ways that students and their parents can make their voices heard.
- ✓ Ask students to follow how their elected officials vote on the issues that the class decided were important to them.

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENTS:

- ★ List two methods you used to get the contact information for your elected officials.
- ★ Give four reasons why it is important that we share our opinions with our elected officials.



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD!

“People often say that, in a democracy, decisions are made by a majority of the people. Of course, that is not true. Decisions are made by a majority of those who MAKE THEMSELVES HEARD and who vote....” (Walter H. Judd)

My Street Address _____

My Local Government Information

City/Village/Town Name _____

City Government Address _____

Phone _____

Website _____

Mayor/City Manager _____

Email _____

My Ohio Government Information

Governor _____

Phone _____

Website _____

Secretary of State _____

Phone _____

Website _____



My Ohio Government Information (Cont.)

State Legislature

To find out who your State Legislators are go to <http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/> and type in your zip code. Follow the link provided and record their contact information below.

Ohio House My district # _____

State Representative _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Ohio Senate My district # _____

State Senator _____

Phone _____ Email _____

My U.S. Government Information

U.S. House of Representatives

To find out who represents you in Congress follow the steps below. First go to:

<https://www.house.gov>

and type in your zip code to contact your U.S. Representative's via email. This search will give you the name of your representative. You can then go to

http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW_by_State.shtml

and click on Ohio for complete contact information for your representative.

Enter the information below:

U.S. Representative _____

Local District Office _____

Phone _____

Washington DC Office _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Usually you will find a contact via email form.

My U.S. Government Information (Cont.)

U.S. Senate

To find out who represents you in the U.S. Senate follow the steps below. First go to:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=OH
for the contact information for Ohio's two Senators.

U.S. Senator _____

Local District Office _____

Phone _____

Washington DC Office _____

Phone _____ Email _____



U.S. Senator _____

Local District Office _____

Phone _____

Washington DC Office _____

Phone _____ Email _____

U.S. President

Go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact> to get contact information for the US President.

White House Address _____

Website _____

Phone _____