



# VOTE SMART

## JUST THE FACTS

### Lesson 3 - What Should We Ask Our Representative?

#### **Standards: National Council for the Social Studies**

NCSS 6: Power, Authority, and Governance

NCSS 10: Civic Ideals and Practices

#### **Objectives:**

SWBAT (students will be able to) give the name and political party of the local representative.

SWBAT generate questions to ask their local representative with teacher support.

#### **Materials:**

- Chart paper

#### **Procedure: (30-40 min)**

1. Prior to the beginning of the lesson use [votesmart.org/search](https://votesmart.org/search) to look up the name, party affiliation, and address of your local representative using your address. This can be done using the search bar at the bottom of the page. Post this information on the board or on a piece of chart paper where students can easily see it.
2. Students should be familiar with writing in the format of a letter prior to this lesson.
3. Explain to students that this is the name of the person that our community has chosen to represent us. Grown ups voted and now this person tries to make laws that are best for us. This person may change the next time that grown ups vote. Explain that the party is an easy way for representatives to tell people what they think about some things. Have the students repeat the name and political party several times.
4. Explain that people can write to their representatives to share their thoughts or to ask questions, and that we are going to write to our representative. Ask students what they would like to ask their representative. Give thinking time with no talking or raised hands, and then ask students to volunteer their ideas. As students give responses, list them on chart paper for later reference. If students are having difficulty, list a few suggestions. These can be as simple as "What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?" The important thing is that students understand that their representative is a person that they can interact with.

5. Briefly review the representative's name and party affiliation by prompting students to give the information. Let students know that next time they will each be writing their own letter to the representative.