



# **VOTE SMART**

## **JUST THE FACTS**

### **Lesson 4 - Writing a Letter to Our Representatives**

#### **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) write in the format of a letter.

SWBAT ask their representative a question.

#### **Subject Matter:**

Because the people choose their representatives, we are able to contact our representative with questions or thoughts. If the representative has time, they often write back. We are all going to write a letter to our representative asking a question that we would like to know the answer to. Hopefully, we'll hear back!

#### **Materials:**

- Lined paper
- Pencils and erasers
- Envelopes and stamps
- Chart from the last session
- Letter example chart (optional)

#### **Prep:**

1. Address an appropriate number of envelopes to the representative's district office. Make the return address the school. Place stamps on the envelopes.
2. Use chart paper to create an example letter (optional).

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

1. Display the chart with the question ideas from the last session and review the ideas with students. Ask the students to choose a question. Give them silent thinking time and ask them to indicate when they have made a decision (thumbs up, raised hand, etc). When most of the class has made a decision, ask each student to share their question with the class.
2. Briefly review writing in the format of a letter. You may want to post an example letter for students to refer to.

3. Provide students with lined paper, pencils, and erasers. Remind students to use their best handwriting for this activity. Release students to work independently while you circulate to provide support in spelling and grammar. Allow students to spend the remainder of the lesson time working on their letter if necessary. When students complete their letters, place them in the envelopes so that you can mail them.