**Letter-Writing to Politician Name:**

Part of the democratic process and having our voices heard is writing our elected officials. Please use the list of officials and the provided websites on the attached pages to determine which official you will write to. When the project is complete, we will all mail our letters to the appropriate individuals.

**Your task is to write a letter to a politician explaining the issue you are studying and asking them to take a role in solving that issue. Please make sure you explain key important facts of the issue and outline steps you would like the politician to take.**

Use the sample on the back of this worksheet as a model.

**Rubric:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 1-2 Points | 3-5 Points |
| Content | Letter somewhat conveys the details of your issue and the action you would like them to take. Some information may not be present or clear. | Letter clearly conveys the details of your issue and the action you would like them to take. |
| Spelling/ Grammar/ Sentence Structure | Letter is somewhat well-written with proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. | Letter is well-written with proper grammar, spelling, and sentence structure. |

**Self Assessment:** \*Circle the boxes above and complete the prompts below.

***Areas I did well…***

***Future areas of improvement…***

**Teacher Assessment: /10 Points**

**Comments:**

Ms. Bennett

701 St. Ann’s Ave.

Bronx, NY

10455

January 1, 2016

The Honorable Sherrod Brown

455 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

RE: Safe Space for Youth

Dear Senator Brown,

I am a resident of Springdom, OH, and I am writing because there is a terrible lack of safe places for youth in my community.

Springdom’s mayor and council are proposing a town-wide ordinance requiring that people under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult while shopping at the Springdom Mega-Mall. They borrowed the idea from other communities that have passed similar rules in response to incidents such as kids getting into minor fights on mall property. Mayor Jackson believes that by requiring youth to be accompanied by chaperones, she will eliminate this problem. Some of the strongest arguments against the idea are that it will dramatically reduce business and it may actually increase danger - if kids can’t go to the mall, they’ll find other, not so well-guarded places to hang out.

As a young, concerned citizen of Springdom, I agree that youth violence at the mall is a big problem for both kids and adults, but I think the best way to address this matter is by attacking it at its root. To be perfectly honest, there is nothing to do in Springdom after school lets out. That’s why kids go to the mall! The youth of Springdom need a cool, safe space where they can go after school to hang. I’ve spoken with several friends and teachers and we all agree that Springdom would benefit greatly from the addition of a community space offering athletics, art and other activities so that kids can socialize in a constructive manner.

Specifically, I am writing to ask you to promote the maintenance of community spaces and the creation of more parks and nature trails. Springdom, for one, has thick woodlands. If you worked with the Ohio Parks Department to create running and biking trails in communities such as Springdom, everyone, not only the youth, would benefit greatly. I know that I for one, speaking as a youth and concerned citizen, would gain considerably from this program.

Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

(your handwritten signature)

Betsey Lopez