



Letters for Legislators

Breaking Down Barriers to Civic Engagement

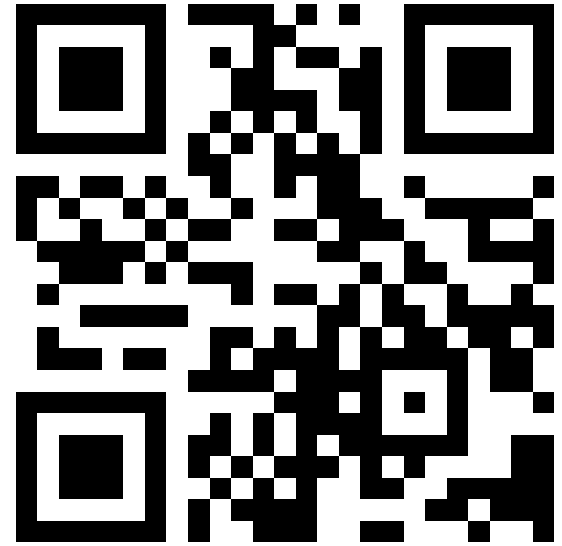
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Link to Slides

<https://bit.ly/2JWZgv8>



Concordia College

- Private, Lutheran, Liberal Arts College
- Four-Year
- 2,100 Students
- Moorhead, MN





Letters for Legislators

The Passive Program

Initial Planning and Approval

- Library Director
- Other Campus Stakeholders/Policy Makers
 - Dean of Students
 - Vice President for Student Development and Campus Life
 - Director of Student Engagement
 - President's Chief of Staff

Description Wording

Letters for Legislators: Writing as Civic Engagement

Celebrate Civic Engagement Week by writing to your legislators. Not sure where to start? Stop by the Carl B. on Monday, October 29—Friday, November 2 for our drop in letter writing campaign. We'll provide stationery, postage, legislators' contact information (from all political parties), and letter writing etiquette tips. Speak up. Share your opinions. Your elected officials want to hear from you.*

*Letters for Legislators participants are acting as private citizens and not advocating on behalf of or representing Concordia College.

Letters for Legislators

- Audience
 - Students, faculty, and staff
 - Not all Moorhead residents
- Libguide

cord.libguides.com/civicengagement



Directions

Letters for Legislators

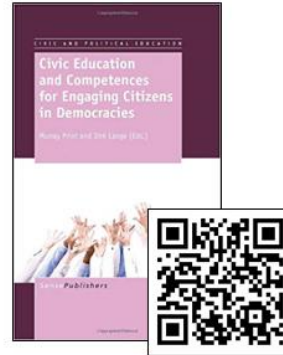
1. Take a sheet of paper and envelope.
2. Go to [cord.libguides.com/civicingement](http://cord.libguides.com/civicingagement)
3. Click on "Writing to Legislators" to:
 - Find your legislators
 - Conduct any necessary research
 - Learn how to write an effective letter
4. Write your letter and address the envelope
5. Put your finished letter in the box

We will mail your letters and take care of postage.

eBooks

Additional Civic Engagement Resources

Tell Me More eBooks about Civic Engagement



Materials/Costs/Logistics



VS



VS



Campus Partner

Student Government Association



LETTERS FOR LEGISLATORS: WRITING AS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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Not sure where to start? Stop by the Carl B. Monday, October 29-Friday, November 2.*

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Assessment/ Feedback

- Positive Feedback
- No Letters Submitted
- Campus Climate
- Libguide Stats



Letters for Legislators

The Workshop

Content Shared

- [“What Calling Congress Achieves,”](#) *New Yorker*, 2017
 - What forms of communication are most effective
 - What context each form of communication is effective in
 - What happens after contacting an elected official
 - What impact communication might have
- Resources Demoed
 - LWV: Find Your Elected Officials
 - CQ Researcher
 - Issues & Controversies
 - Congress.gov
 - GovTrack
 - Project Vote Smart

Assessment/Feedback

- Led three, hour-long workshops
- 17 total attendees
 - Students, faculty, and staff
- Positive Feedback
 - Requests to use Libguide in classes
 - Students felt empowered because they “knew how to start”
 - One student came specifically because she had an issue she wanted to write about
- Libguide Stats

Opportunities for Partnerships

- Psychology--Drug Policy
- Dietetics/Nutrition--Environmental Nutrition
- First-Year Seminar/First-Year Writing Classes
- Nursing
- Education
- Residence Life
- Student Government

Lessons Learned

Format Pros and Cons

- Sequence and Persistence
- Time/Timing
- Cost

Additional Partnership Opportunities

- Local Government Officials or Political Parties
- Groups affected by upcoming votes/legislation
- Passive program could serve as a call to action/way to act on information learned in other library programs

Additional Programming Opportunities

- Elections/Inaugurations
- 4th of July
- Constitution Day (September 17, 2019)
- President's Day
- Many schools designate a Civic Engagement Week
- Pick a letter writing theme that corresponds to another event
 - Environmental Issues for Earth Day
 - National Library Week, Take Action for Libraries Day



Questions

Discussion Questions

1. How do you envision Letters for Legislators working at your library?
2. Who could you partner with?
3. When would you host it?