

Learning goals:

1. To understand current political issues pertinent to state legislature
2. To articulate in writing your viewpoint on education policy in the state
3. To understand state's Constitution's main priority: Education
4. To be able to use the writing process to write a business-format letter

Assignment: You will write a one-page letter to a legislator, in which you discuss the current education issues and your opinion towards them. You can validate the legislator's view or offer up your own perspective.

1st paragraph, Introduction & Connect:

- a. Introduce yourself,
- b. Place letter in context-WA state class--, share something you've learned this year that you think is interesting or important to our state
- c. Connect with legislator--acknowledge you visited her website, connect with her, *I liked that...*, *I appreciate that you...., I too enjoy...*

2nd paragraph, Demonstrate knowledge of issue: Discuss your understanding of the state's financial difficulty--less tax revenue=less services. Insert facts from readings--cite your source, *according to the Seattle Times on 11/27, ...* This shows you are knowledgeable--they will be impressed and be more inclined to read on, and possibly respond back to you.

3rd paragraph, Your Conclusions/Opinion on the issue:(this is biggest paragraph) According to the Constitution, education is the state's number one mandate. The *McCleary* case stated education is being underfunded.

- What's your opinion of how state should handle this complex issue?
- What are some ways that the state can increase revenue to fund education?
- Raise taxes?
- Where should education money be directed towards?

Business-letter format

No punctuation, grammar or spelling mistakes-It won't be sent, if there are  
Two copies printed out on Wednesday 30 points & your voice being heard