



Now that you know ..

Use your new knowledge about advocacy to change things in your community!

If you have any further questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact:

Your respective Lt. Governor


or

Advocacy Committee Chair

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What's netter than making a change while sitting at your computer desk? Nothing, if I do say so myself. So go out and get started!



Change the world
with WORDS



Advocacy 101



**Your step-to-step guide for
ADVOCACY**



What IS advocacy?

Advocacy is the tool that citizens use to make a change occur in their communities, states, or nation. While advocating, you write letters educating, defending, or presenting an idea to people on the local, state, and national level. One writes advocacy so that the viewpoint of the majority in the respective situation is seen, and so that hopefully, a change can be made for the better.

What do I advocate about?

Advocacy is about making a change that you can't personally control, but a public official can. You would want to choose a topic that affects most of your community.

Some examples are:

Local Injustices

General Matinence

Butification for the Community

Community-Related Activities

Social Events (Bringing the community together)

Fundraisers (Make changes, or educate the public)

How do I get started?

Advocacy is not only a very efficient way to make a change, its also very easy! Here is a very simple guide to get advocacy started in your club.

1. CHOOSE A CAUSE

Ask your advisors, officers, and club members what interests them, and decide on a few worthy causes. From there decide on a focal point, of map out each letter you want to write during the year

2. RESEARCH

Gather as much information as you can about your topic, so that when your club is ready to write the letter you have all of the information all ready for easy access, and so that you're well informed about what you are writing about.

3. WHO TO WRITE TO

After you have gathered as much information as you can about your topic you should figure out who could make the change happen the most efficiently. (For instance, if you wanted recycling cans to be put in the towns park you wouldn't contact your school principal, you'd contact your town's city hall, etc.)

4. START WRITING!

Write a formal, respectful letter to the person you decided could help you the most. The more personal the letter is, the more likely it is you'll see a response. Use names if you can, and let the recipient of the letter know why this cause is important to YOU.

5. GAIN SUPPORT, GET SIGNATURES

Get everyone in your club, school, and community who is in support of your cause to sign a letter. This way the recipient of the letter will know how many people the cause does affect, which will increase the response you will receive from the letter

6. MAIL IT!

Put your letter(s) in the mail and send 'em out! (Don't forget to keep a copy for your club, so that your club's secretary can attach a copy of the letter to their Monthly Report Forms to serve as proof!)

Who do I advocate to?

Who you advocate to is really based on what your topic is. You should write to someone that can help your cause to the best of their ability, as well as someone who will be happy to hear from you.

IF YOU'RE WRITING ABOUT A LOCAL CAUSE..

You should write to a local official. Your best bet is a town mayor, a legislator, or a senator. Each assemblyman is elected for each county. In order to find out who your local official is visit the following website:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/>

On this website you will be able to search for your officials according to your zip-code. The name and address of each assemblyman is provided on the website

