

## Legislative Meetings

Introduce yourself

- a. "Hi, I'm [name], a student at [school]."

The order of what you say from here on doesn't matter that much, as long as you mention it.

2. Explain why the issue you're representing is pertinent to teens (and/or your religious denomination). Add some sort of emotional appeal (if you have a personal story related to your issue, say it)
  - a. "Human trafficking is a major crime that victimizes people from when they're teenagers, just like us. Out of 200 victims....over 100 teenagers our age were found being trafficked in our neighborhood, and that's very frightening for all of us here."
3. Thank the legislator for voting record, if you have the information.
  - a. "I want to thank Assemblymember/Senator [last name] for voting on....."
4. **This is the most important part.** Talk about one or two main bills: state the bill #, the name, the authors, a short summary, and why we support it. Ask that the legislator vote yes/no, depending on our position.
  - a. "The California Water Conservancy supports...[bill #, name] which was introduced by [authors]. This bill would...."

## DURING YOUR OFFICE VISIT

The following is a suggested agenda. Please adapt the agenda to fit your group and issue.

- 1. Introductions:** The Facilitator should start the meeting by thanking the member for his/her time, introducing the group as a whole, and then having each person introduce himself.
- 2. Story:** Share a story demonstrating the reality of the issue. It can be a personal story or an interaction someone had relating to the issue.
- 3. Specific Issue Points:** Provide the member with the materials you prepared and explain specific issues and statistics.
- 4. Make your ask:** "We believe that in order to be **[Good neighbors... true to American values...etc.]** we must support **[Issue]**. Can we count on your support for **[Issue]**? How can we best support you in our mutual goal?"
- 5. Thank the staffer/congressperson:** "Thank you for your time and support. We will be hosting **[Event/vigil]**. Can we count on your attendance? In the meantime, please let us know how we can be a support to you as well."

#### Condensed Example:

*"People of faith throughout [Town/city/state] are committed to acting out our faith by supporting [Issue]. We do this by [Include a story of the work you or other faith groups in your community have done in support of the issue]. We count you, Senator/Representative [NAME] as our neighbor, too. We commend you for demonstrating the hospitality of our community by [Find some comments or legislation the member has worked on in support of issue]. We'd also like to ask how you plan to support [ISSUE] and look to create a just and compassionate [Issue]."*



Remember to get the contact information and cards for the staffers you meet. Consider asking the member and staff to take a photo with your group. Most politicians love the photo op, and it can be added to your social media posts (see page 14).

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### Useful Links

1. <http://www.nea.org/home/16827.htm>
2. <http://www.ncte.org/action/speak-legis>
3. <https://www.ncra.org/Government/content.cfm?ItemNumber=9364>