

Host Your Own Letter Writing Campaign

At the Miss G__ Project, we owe much of our success to letter ad postcard campaigns, which have allowed us to show the Ministry of Education that the desire for a women's and gender studies course in high schools is strong and popular. We're firm believers that the pen is mightier than the sword (and much easier to fit in your purse), and we think that the ability to communicate their wants and needs and frustrations and congratulations in writing is one of the best lessons you can teach your students.

Letter writing is an effective means to communicating with government, media and corporations, and we have it on good authority that when these bigwigs get letters from normal folks, they take them seriously. In fact, many politicians believe that a single letter represents the opinions of a hundred voters, since most people just don't take the time. Writing a letter is wildly more useful than signing a petition, and nearly as easy.

Writing letters is good protest strategy for young people because a letter can either mask or stress the writer's age, either to legitimize their opinions or tug on heartstrings. If your class is mounting a grand letter-writing campaign against some injustice, call the press and stage the mailing of thirty-five or a hundred letters as a great photo op.

Materials:

Stamps/ Envelopes (don't forget that mailing to Federal parliament is free!)
Paper/ Pens

To Do:

Teach your students to write letters to corporations, to the government, to the newspaper, to the school administration. Encourage them to do so all the time. If your class does journaling, give them the option to journal OR protest through writing.

Valuable Resources:

How to Write a Protest Letter

by Jennifer Pozner, *Bitch Magazine*

<http://bitchmagazine.org/article/how-write-protest-letter>

How to Write Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces

from the American College of Emergency Physicians at

<http://www.acep.org/advocacy.aspx?LinkId=21784&fid=2624&Mo=No&acceptTitle=Letters%20to%20the%20Editor%20&Opinion%20Pieces>

To find contact information for your elected representatives, visit:

http://www.parl.gc.ca/common/SenatorsMembers_house.asp?Language=E&Parl=39&Ses=1&Sect=hocur