

Activity: Propose a Law/Policy



Objective: Draft a proposed law or policy change that solves the problem you're advocating for.

Leader Prep: Do this activity before speaking to legislators in person, attending school board meetings or visiting the city council. This is an informal proposal and does not need to follow a specific template. However, if you'd like to use one, an online search for "write legislative proposal" can be done using your favorite search engine.

Supplies:

- Paper
- Writing utensils
- Problem Map
- Advocacy Materials you've created
- Computer or laptop (optional)
- Template (optional)

1. The goal of proposing your law or policy change is to demonstrate the problem you're advocating for, offer a solution, demonstrate how the solution solves the problem, and point out the consequences of not following the solution. If you can believe it, most legislation starts out with citizens just like you advocating for solutions to problems. This is what advocacy is all about. Remember: be brief and to the point. You can use your elevator pitch or other materials for support.
2. Start with the opening paragraph, also known as the preamble. Start by stating the problem. Follow up the problem with one or two examples of the problem occurring. These can be pieces of research or statistics you've found, or examples you've witnessed.
3. In the next paragraph, the body of your proposal, start by stating "I propose enactment of legislation that will..." This means, "I suggest you pass a law that will..." Finish the statement by saying what the law will do and then how it will do it. A good way to think about this portion of your proposal is as though you are selling something – like Girl Scout cookies. You're saying "I suggest you buy some cookies, because then your family will be happy that they get to eat delicious Girl Scout cookies! Girl Scout cookies support strong leaders like me and make your family happy at the same time." How would you sell Girl Scout cookies? Use that same method to sell your proposal to your legislator.
4. The last part of a proposal is called the Enactment. This can sometimes be a set of guidelines about how long it should take to get the bill passed and made into law. A great thing to put here is why it is important to pass the law now, instead of waiting for several years. Think about why your issue is important and why your legislator should make it important too. What might happen if they don't?
5. Use your proposal for all opportunities to speak with legislators of all types and parts of government.



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