

Successful In-Person Meetings

Science Facts and Analysis from Science for Georgia

Meeting with your legislator is an effective way to voice your concerns, opinions, and support for various issues. Legislators represent a diverse range of constituents, and your communication can help them understand your perspective and make informed decisions. Legislators cannot be experts on every issue, so providing them with a well-constructed position makes their job of representing your interests easier. When you write, email, call, or post to your legislator, they assume you represent many voices in their community, emphasizing the importance of your opinion.

This handout will guide you on how to construct clear, concise, and impactful outreach to your representative.

Meeting with a legislator can be nerve-wracking but remember that they are people too. Just treat them as a person you are chatting with while you wait in line at the grocery store. Everyone is capable of polite small talk.

What to Say: Be Clear, Concise, and Respectful

You must only focus on *one issue per communication*.

Introduce Yourself and Small Talk

- Ask how their day is going.
- Mention that you live in their district.
- Thank them for meeting with you.

Be Clear and Concise - Think "Straightforward" and "Succinct" 20-sec Elevator Pitch

- I am here to talk to you about...
- Clearly state your stance on the issue

Provide a Personal Narrative on the Issue:

- Share a personal story about how the issue directly affects you or your community/state.
- Highlight the importance of addressing the issue and its potential impact.

Be Passionate **and** Respectful:

- Convey your passion and concern in a positive manner.
- Show that you care genuinely about the issue and its impact on the community.

End with an ask.

- Can we count on your support?
- If **YES** - Thank you for your support. That's great. Is there anything I can do help to make this successful?
- If **NO** - That's disappointing to hear. What needs to change for you to be supportive? Would you be willing to work with us to create change?

Follow-Up

- If they asked any questions – be sure to follow-up with answers (we can help you with that!)
- PRO TIP – Take a Selfie** – offer to text/email it to them. Perfect excuse to follow up and thank them for their time and remind them to support your issue.