



REQUIREMENT FOUR (H): LETTER TO A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL



**2 copies of your Letter (one to send, one for your portfolio), Envelope and Stamp Due:
Lesson 39**

Write a one-page formal letter to a government official expressing your point of view about the problem you are studying. Make sure you write to the appropriate official (federal, state or local – you would not write to Pres. Bush about the Metro Buses, instead you would write to Mayor Burke or Governor Schwarzenegger!) and make sure you ask for a response. Use the appropriate format for a business letter (see back of this page.)

Your letter should contain the following three paragraphs:

- Introduction Paragraph – Explain who you are and why you are writing.
- Body Paragraph – Explain your issue, what you have done about it (service, research, etc.) any Current events, and any other supporting ideas you may have
- Conclusion Paragraph – Explain what you want them to do about your issue and **ASK FOR A REPLY!**

Addresses:

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT -

Executive Branch

President George Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington D.C., 20500

Legislative Branch: California

Senator Dianne Feinstein
331 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Adam Schiff
326 Cannon HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

STATE GOVERNMENT: California

Executive Branch

Governor Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Legislative Branch

Assemblymember Judy Chu
State Capitol
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0049

Senator Gilbert Cedillo
State Capitol, Room 3048
Sacramento, CA 95814

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Alhambra

Executive Branch

Mayor Talmage Burke
Alhambra City Hall
111 South First Street
Alhambra, CA 91801



January 3, 2004

Javier Gutierrez
101 2nd Street.
Alhambra, CA 91801

Governor A. Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger,

I am a teacher of Juniors and Seniors at Alhambra High School and I am writing because I believe that teachers should be paid more. At my school, many teachers have left or are leaving their jobs because they are not making enough money to live. These people are excellent teachers. When they leave, the entire school and especially the students are hurt. We need to find a better way to keep teachers and make sure that they make enough money to survive.

It says in the Preamble to our country's Constitution that our government should "promote the general welfare." To me, education is key to our country's welfare and thus teachers are extremely important. If we do not get good teachers and keep them, then how can we ever have a better society? I was reading in the newspaper the other day that the average public salary of a teacher here in Los Angeles County is less than the average bus driver. I cannot believe that. How can we say we are one of the greatest states in one of the greatest countries of the world if we do not pay our teachers better than we pay our bus drivers? I ask you, who is more important for our children and our future: a caring hard working teacher or a bus driver?

I have been working intensely at my school and in the District to try and increase wages for teachers. I have gone to ASD Board meetings, I have written letters to the Superintendent, I have attended union meetings, and I have even gone to the capitol building to speak in person with representatives about this issue. All of these things have helped, but I am writing to you to ask for more assistance on this matter. I believe you should propose a law that would increase teacher's pay by at least 50%. What do you think of this idea? Please tell me what your position is on this important issue. Thank you very much and I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Javier Gutierrez

