



HOW TO: HOST A LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

Purpose: Your elected officials depend on support from constituents (like you) to get elected, but they won't know how you feel about issues unless you tell them! A letter writing campaign is an easy way to spell out exactly how you want your elected officials to act on certain issues or pieces of legislation. Few people take the time to write letters to their officials, so it can be an important way to weigh in on an issue. All it takes is a few minutes, some quick research and a couple of stamps!

Materials: Envelopes, Stamps, Pens, Paper, Sample Letters, Addresses, People!

Getting started: You can make this campaign as simple or as elaborate as you like. It can be as simple as using NLIIRH's form letters and getting a small group together to sign and mail them. Or, you can host a letter writing party, create your own letters based on research you've done about a certain issue, and publicize the event to a wider audience, hoping to bring in more people. The more the better, as every letter counts! It is also a good idea to provide background information about the issue for your attendees. This could be in the form of a fact sheet, or even a brief presentation at the beginning of the event. Giving people a forum to discuss the issue at hand can also be an important part of raising awareness. Providing refreshments is always a good idea as well!

STEP BY STEP

1. Set a date for the gathering (you may want to tie it to a specific holiday, day of commemoration, etc. – See our RJ Activism calendar for dates)
2. Invite your friends and fellow LAN members to come.
3. Introduce the campaign at the beginning of the event.
4. Address and sign the sample letters.
5. Seal them and put them in the mail.
6. Keep track of how many letters you send and let us know! (We love to keep track of these types of direct action).
7. Give the attendees information about your group, and make sure to get their contact information so you can include them in future events!
8. Lastly, you might want to have people sign campaign postcards (if you have any) as well at this event.