

Name _____ Date _____

Letter for Social Change

1. On another sheet of paper, brainstorm some social issues you feel strongly about. These can be large or small.
2. Choose one issue from your list and circle it. Who would be the appropriate audience for a letter urging change about it? Think of government officials (mayor, representative, senator, president), other leaders, and businesses. Write down a possible recipient.
3. Write your feelings on the issue as a full sentence. This will be your claim.
4. Brainstorm any ideas about your issue that you may have. Jot down any **reasons, examples, images, or feelings** you can think of. Think about the techniques of logos, pathos, and ethos. Use the internet to research additional reasons, and cite your sources.
5. Looking at your brainstorm, group your ideas together. You might add or subtract ideas as you do.
6. What if someone disagreed with you? What would that person say? Add to your sheet.
7. What would you say back to that person? Why is that person wrong? (#6 and #7 should be written about in a paragraph.)
8. Look at your paragraph-groups. What would be the best order for them in the letter? Put your strongest reason last. Number the groups in the order you want them to appear.
9. Is there a solution to your problem? What would it be? What would the recipient have to do? Usually, the solution or call to action makes a strong conclusion.
10. Try an *if/then* sentence as a possible clincher. Start with "If you . . ."
11. What is an attention-getting way to begin? Can you create a scenario, use a statistic, or ask an engaging question? Should you start by establishing your own integrity? Jot down some ideas.
12. Research the recipient's address and use it for your letter and envelope.