

Write an Election Day Letter

Objective:

Students will write a persuasive letter arguing whether to make Election Day a national holiday.

Students will:

- analyze opinions
 - form their own opinions
 - respectfully include their opinions in a persuasive letter
-

Resources/Materials:

- 2020election.procon.org
 - ProCon.org article "[Election Day National Holiday - Top 3 Pros and Cons](#)"
 - "[Who Represents Me](#)" resource from Ballotpedia
 - internet connection
-

Preparation:

- Teachers may print the ProCon.org article to eliminate the need for student internet connections.
 - This assignment may be completed in class or as homework.
-

Activity:

1. Have students read the ProCon.org article, "Election Day National Holiday - Top 3 Pros and Cons."
2. Students should carefully consider their opinions on whether election day should be a holiday (whether federal, local, or given via employers).
3. Students should then write a letter arguing their point to a person who could make a change or maintain the current status. Letters could be written to federal elected representatives (the President, senators, or representatives), state or local elected officials (the governor, mayor, or city council people), business people who might offer holiday days to employees, or others. Direct students to "Who Represents Me" on

Ballotpedia to determine their officials based on their addresses (they do not need to enter their email addresses to access the information).

4. Plan Variation:
 - a. Have students address the letter to their classmates (as if it might be published in a school newspaper to convince their classmates of their argument), their communities (as if it might be published in a local newspaper as an op-ed piece), or as a social media post. Or, a combination of formats to allow the students to explore their argument in various formats for a variety of audiences.
-

Evaluation:

1. Quality of writing
2. Ability to express opinion