

Who Will I Write To?

To identify a public official to contact, you may first want to determine which level of government has jurisdiction over the policy issue you are concerned about. For example, if your issue relates to environmental protection, you may want to research which government agencies are responsible for enforcing environmental regulations.

Once you have identified the relevant level of government, you can start researching specific officials who have the authority to make changes in the policy area. This may involve looking up elected officials, agency heads, or other decision-makers who are responsible for implementing policy changes.

Some resources you can use to identify public officials include:

- Government websites: Many government websites have directories or contact pages that list officials and their contact information. For example, the website for the U.S. House of Representatives has a directory of all current representatives and their contact information.
- Corporate websites: You may need to email a generic “info” account or use a page that generates your email, but even these will land in a real person’s email in box.
- Social media: Many public officials have active social media accounts, such as Twitter or Facebook, where they post updates about their work and engage with constituents.
- News articles: News articles about policy issues often mention the officials who are involved in making decisions about those issues.
- Interest groups: Interest groups that advocate for specific policy changes may have information about which officials are most influential in shaping policy decisions.

When choosing a public official or businessperson to contact, consider who is most likely to have the power and influence *to lead conversation about and make the policy change* you are advocating for. For example, if your issue relates to a specific government agency, you may want to contact the agency head or other high-level officials who are responsible for implementing policy changes within that agency.

Remember to be respectful and professional in your communications with public officials, and to clearly articulate your position and the research that supports it.