

## How to Write An Advocacy Letter

*Kid-friendly templates to send letters and drawings to community leaders.*

### 1. For caregivers:

[Find your state officials' contact information.](#)

When you write, be sure to mention your *address, city, and zip code* so the people who make decisions know they work for us! You can mail a physical letter or scan & send it as an email.

Use the [discussion questions](#) in our family action toolkit to help kids clarify their demands.

### 2. For pre-writers:

Use the [pre-written letter](#). Follow the drawing prompt.

Drawings don't have to be recognizable to make an impact!

### 3. For emerging writers:

Use the [emerging writer](#) letter.

Write-in a short statement, using the [discussion questions](#) for inspiration.

### 4. For advanced readers and writers:

Discuss what you learned from the [discussion questions](#).

What do you care the most about? Funding schools instead of prisons? Giving kids support instead of punishment? Keeping police out of schools?

Think about what you believe. Write from the heart, or [use a template](#) - what matters is sending *any* letter, not a perfect one.

*This activity is from the [Dismantling the School To Prison Pipeline](#) - Raising Luminaries Family Action Toolkit. When sharing, please link to the full toolkit, not this document.*

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## Pre-Writers

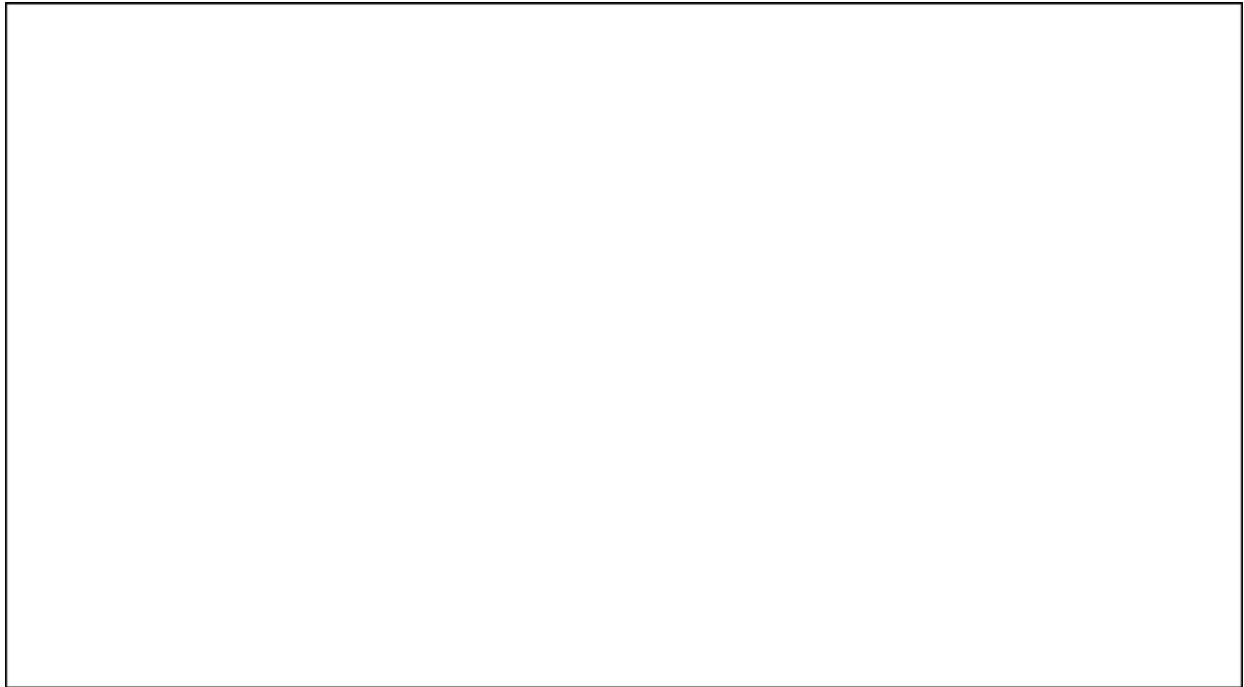
### Letter to State Decision-Makers

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I believe kids need help when we make mistakes. Prisons don't help kids heal from mistakes. Support our education, our homes, and our health. End youth prisons now!

*Kids can't get what they need locked in prison. Draw what kids need to grow and learn.*

A large empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a drawing. It occupies the central portion of the page below the text and above the signature line.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

*Name, Age, City*

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## Emerging & Independent Writers

### Letter to State Decision-Makers

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I believe:

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We need to stop:

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We should:

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Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_

*Name, Age, City*