

# WRITE A LETTER TO LEADERSHIP

**Students will share their opinions with community members and leaders through writing.**

Students feel empowered when you encourage them to form their own opinions and then to share those with others. When they do this for important topics like car and road safety, they will see how they have a real impact on people around them. In this lesson students will write their own letter or op-ed to encourage safer habits in their own neighborhoods and communities.

## Instructions for the Lesson:

### 1. IDENTIFY DIFFERENT TYPES OF OPINION WRITING.

There are many different ways to write an opinion piece. Whether creating an essay, letter, or formal article, it's great to give students different options. Have students read different opinion pieces, and encourage them to think about what they will write.

### 2. CONNECT OPINION WRITING TO SAFETY.

Talk to students about how opinion pieces can help get out important messages. Using a poster, invite students to come up with different road or safety topics. Write these ideas big on the poster for everyone to see. (Example: Distracted driving, Seatbelts, Bus safety.)

### 3. FILL OUT THE WORKSHEET!

Some students will just dive in and start writing while others need time to form their thoughts and opinions. In either case, using a worksheet can be really helpful as students identify their ideas and opinions. Encourage everyone to complete the opinion planning worksheet, filling in all the prompts.

### 4. WRITE, REVISE, AND SEND.

This last part could take days or weeks, depending on your goals. Students should write their opinion piece, revise it as they typically would, and then, if and when it's ready, send it out!



## Time Required:

30+ minutes

## Materials

- Poster
- Option Planning worksheet

## Prep:

Print enough copies of the planning worksheet so all students can use it to prep their letter or article on their topic of choice.

## Objective:

Students will form their own opinions on a road and safety topic to create a letter or op-ed, which they can then send to a public official, community leader, or to a media outlet.

## Elevate Your Lesson:

**Here are some ideas for ways to expand this lesson:**

- Encourage students to research a public official to send their letter to.
- Add to the lesson by having students create a video essay out of their writing.