

# Activity 2 Dear Mr. President

**In “Dear Mr. President,” students will write their own question on a postcard that will be mailed to the current Executive Branch.**

Materials needed:

- current “safe” topic idea suggestions (ex: helping homeless people or pets, improving school funding, recycling laws, etc.)
  - lined practice paper, with “text boxes” the size of the writing portion of the postcard
  - postcards
  - postage stamps
  - pencils
  - make-shift mailbox
  - an enlarged example of a completed postcard, easel
1. Remind students that in Activity 1, “Holding History,” they examined children’s letters to President Eisenhower, and that writing letters is one way that citizens can interact with the Executive Branch. They can exercise their Constitutional rights and become involved with our ruling government by letting them know how you feel, or to ask questions about governmental issues.
  2. Show them the postcards that they will be using and point out that the greeting is already on the front. They will just need to add their names to the greeting. Show them the back portion that includes the mailing and return addresses, and the writing space. Point out that they will need to keep their question or comment in the space provided and sign their name at the end. Show an enlarged, completed example. Tell students their letter should include 2-3 sentences.
  3. Brainstorm a list of questions students may want to ask the President. Have some current ideas/suggestions. Be ready to address/neutralize harsh suggestions. Keep this activity positive!
  4. Hand out the practice paper and pencils. Students should practice drafting their letter so they are sure it will fit on the postcard and so they can correct any spelling or grammar issues.
  5. When students have their draft completed, give them a postcard to rewrite their letter.
  6. When their postcard is complete, each student should add a postage stamp and put it in the mailbox.
  7. Conclude by telling students we will be mailing this out and any replies that come back will be given to them at school. Also, review that writing letters to the Executive Branch (or anyone in politics) is a way to exercise their Constitutional rights and become involved with our ruling government; to let them know how you feel, or to ask questions about governmental issues.



DEAR MR. PRESIDENT,

MY NAME IS \_\_\_\_\_,

AND I AM CELEBRATING THE PRIVILEGES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AT THE

EISENHOWER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY, MUSEUM, AND BOYHOOD HOME.

I HAVE A QUESTION.

*Constitution Day*

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PRESIDENT OBAMA  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20500

PLEASE MAIL REPLY TO THE CARE OF EISENHOWER FOUNDATION P.O. BOX 205 ABILENE, KANSAS 67410