

Government Participation Opportunities

The following are some options you have this semester to meet the participation requirement for class.

Summary:

1. Attend two meetings and write a one page reflection for both
2. Write one letter

Meetings and observations

You have several options here. I want you to attend one school board meeting and one city council meeting from the following list.

Meeting Schedule

School Board

Monday, Feb. 23 (7:00pm HS library)
Monday, March 23
Monday, April 27
Monday, May 26 (might be out of school)

City Council

Thursday, Feb 19 (5:30 pm City Center)
Thursday, Mar. 19 (6:00 regular time)
Thursday, April 16
Thursday, May 21

*Meetings are subject to change...this is your responsibility to track.

1. Stay for one hour.
2. Wait for a “natural break” to leave. It is distracting for the whole herd to get up and leave at once
3. Write a one page reflection paper, including: what impressed you about the meeting, what disappointed you, was the meeting productive or not, could you see yourself taking part in a meeting like this, why/why not?
4. This reflection is due the first school day after the meeting. No exceptions.

Letter

You have several options here too. I want you to **either** write a letter to an elected official and seek a response, or write a letter to the editor of a newspaper hoping to get it published. We'll sign up for due dates soon

Letter to elected official

- choose a local, state, or national politician
- choose an issue that is important to you, and send it to the correct person
- ask their opinion or ask them to support/oppose the issue/policy
- no more than one page (see Mr. Rushmeyer's example)
- ask for a reply

Letter to the editor

- choose a newspaper
 - the reader of the paper is your audience
 - 300 words max
 - support your argument with facts
 - include address and phone # see my example
- Some commonly requested addresses

Governor Mark Dayton
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155

President Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, DC 20500

St Cloud Times
PO Box 768
St Cloud, MN 56302

Melrose Beacon
PO Box 186
Melrose, MN 56352-0186

US Representative Collin Peterson
2109 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

State Representative Paul Anderson
255 State Office Building
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155

State Senator Torrey Westrom
State Office Building Room 107
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
St Paul, MN 55155-1206

US Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

US Senator Al Franken
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

546 Fifth Ave NE
Melrose, MN 56352

December 17, 2005

The Honorable Norm Coleman
United States Senate

Dear Senator Coleman:

I am writing to express my support for US Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito. After watching the hearings intently over the past few days, I am impressed with the nominee's intellect, demeanor, and judicial philosophy. I believe Mr. Alito would make a quality addition to the US Supreme Court. I was perhaps most impressed with his firmly held and often stated belief that no one is above the law.

I am hoping Mr. Alito will be confirmed. In the highly partisan setting surrounding this particular nominee, every vote for confirmation will be important. Therefore, I urge you to vote to confirm Samuel Alito to the US Supreme Court

Sincerely

Adam Rushmeyer

To the editor:

I am writing to encourage support for building a new Vikings stadium. The new stadium will be a positive addition to the state of Minnesota. There are those who say that the State of Minnesota should not provide public dollars for this project. But the reality is that if we don't some other state will and the Vikings will simply leave town to take advantage of the offer. Losing the Minnesota Vikings would be a blow to the fabric and culture of our great state. Not to mention the fact that losing the team would deliver an economic blow to thousands of Minnesotans who work in and around the stadium.

Sincerely

Adam Rushmeyer

Melrose, MN
320-256-4224