



FROM THE TOP

Supplemental Activity 2: Advocating for the Arts

Objective

Through the process of writing a letter in support of arts education, students will deepen their persuasive writing skills and articulate why the arts are important to them.

Materials

Advocating for the Arts handout (provided)

National Core Arts Standards

Anchor Standard #10: synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experiences to make art.

Procedure

- Invite students to respond to the following questions.
 - Why do you think art matters in education?
 - What role has art played in your life, and why is it important to you?
- Review *Advocating for the Arts* assignment with students.
- Have students draft letters to state representatives that make a case for why arts education matters.
- You may wish to have students research who their representative is and send their letters to the appropriate person.

From the Top

Be an Arts Advocate!

Introduction:

From the Top exists to celebrate the power of music in the hands of young people. Do you agree that music is powerful stuff? Then make your voice heard!

Your Task:

Write a letter to your state representative making your case for why art matters in education. Use your personal experience and one of the options below to build your argument.

Option A. Use one or two of the following talking points to support your case.

5 Reasons the Arts are Important¹

1. The arts cut across racial, cultural, and social barriers.
2. The arts provide opportunities for self-expression.
3. The arts develop both independence and collaboration.
4. The arts provide immediate feedback and opportunities for reflection.
5. The arts improve academic achievement – enhancing test scores, social skills, critical and creative thinking.

¹Adapted from ["Why the arts are important?" by Dee Dickenson](#) www.DoSomething.org

Option B. Explore the ["Arts Education Navigator: Facts & Figures"](#) for facts and figures to include in your letter. This free download is offered at www.americansforthearts.org.

What to do next:

There are lots of ways you can spread the message. Here are two ways to start.

1. Email your state and federal representatives to voice your support for the arts. You can find out who they are and how to contact them here:

<http://www.artsactionfund.org/pages/action-center>

2. Take a stand on social media. Take a photo of yourself with a written statement such as "#artmatters because..." Post it on Facebook or Instagram. Be sure to tag your post with the hashtag #artsmatter.