

Artifact Assignments

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Artifact #1: Getting to Know the Issues

There are many issues that citizens, just like you care about. What can we do if we care about an issue but feel like no one will hear us? The answer is to know your officials and the issues, and simply to take action. Take some time to read through some of the issues found on

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/state/main/?lvl=L&state=IL&view=myofficials>.

Once you've familiarized yourself with the issues, choose one to write a response to. You do not need to submit this response, unless you feel so inclined to. In 2 pages discuss to whom you are writing, the issue you have chosen, and your particular stance. [What information do you have or need? Why do you feel strongly about this issue, how does it affect you, the country, etc?] There is no specific format- Frame your response as if you were actually submitting it.

Artifact #2: How a Bill Becomes a Law

There are many bills currently being discussed and passed. As a citizen it is important that you know not only the issues, but also the legislative actions taking place. Please take some time to review the current bills being worked on.

<http://www.congress.org/congressorg/issuesaction/bill/>

Select an issue and bill and write about what the bill is, what it will accomplish, how this bill affects you and the country. [What does the bill stand for, who is affected by it, should it be passed, what amendments would you make, etc?] There is no specific format for this assignment; rather the purpose is to familiarize yourself with the current status of legislation and to consider its impact.