

A.C.T! - M.P. #2 - CONTACTS

In the second marking period A.C.T! groups will begin to contact various groups in order to:

- 1 - learn more about their issue.
- 2 - assert political pressure on elected representatives.
- 3 - influence the voting public.
- 4 - solidify ties with like minded organizations.
- 5 - send a challenge to organizations that conflict with your Mission.

This portion of the assignment will be via US mail or the Internet.

Every A.C.T! Group must write four letters of correspondence to various selected organizations. In the event that we have a group of five - five letters will be required. We will learn how to write a quality letter. You will have various guidelines to go by. All letters must be 12 point font, with 1 inch margins, and typed. You may submit letters via E-mail, however E-mail letters, like regular mail, must be okayed for sending by Mr. Wood.

I will NOT clear a letter that has any misspelled words, or does not convey what I think is a coherent message. You may run the letters by me as many times as you wish. When a letter is cleared it counts 100%. If it is not cleared by due date that letter counts 0% no matter how many times you've rewritten the letter.



Your A.C.T! group must also continue in MP#2 to broaden your knowledge base on your issue; consequently you will be required to research four more articles (five if you have a group consisting of five members.) This time we will eliminate the Quote and the Question. Your format stays the same for everything else - However - replace the term Evaluation with Reflection. And here I expect substantial improvement in this area. So make sure to include your work up copy of the article in your A.C.T! Notebook. Let's go back and take a look at requirements on this portion of the assignment...

Grade Breakdown for MP#2 - Letters...

A.C.T! grade in Marking Period #2 will consist of the following grades...

Letters count 66% of the grade. Articles count 33%. Example of a group of four below...

- Letter #1 - 17% (Grade of 100% or 0%)
- Letter #2 - 17% (Grade of 100% or 0%)
- Letter #3 - 17% (Grade of 100% or 0%)
- Letter #4 - 17% (Grade of 100% or 0%)

Each of four articles count 8% ($4 \times 8 = 32\%$) I will compare reflections with your MP#1 opinion for improvement and grade accordingly.

Improving your “reflections.”

- 1 - Find yourself four solid articles. If you are not sure run it by group members and by me.
- 2 - Look over the examples we touched on in class. You can find them here.
- 3 - Make sure that your 5 W's has at least a phrase sentence or paragraph for each.
- 4 - Keep summaries in your own words and three to five solid paragraphs.
- 5 - Most importantly, make these reflection portions come alive. Do not abandoned the article for a rambling opinionated editorial. Weave that article into your knowledge of the issue and any experience with the issue that you might have had. This reflection should be three to five solid paragraphs and show a higher level of thinking - you know your issue...you know yourself. Put the two together - and provide some solid writing. Run it by me and by group members before finalizing.

Where do your Letters go?

Political representatives (Local, State, and Federal Government).

Political Action Committees.

Newspaper - Letter to the Editor.

High School & College Interest groups.

Businesses which conflict with your PAC.

Local governmental organizations which influence your issue.

Special note on Letter to the Editor:

The Muskegon Chronicle has been very good at publishing our letters in the paper. Community members have responded in kind. If there is one part of this assignment that has really worked well - it has been this. However, there's been a few instances where return letters to students have upset parents. Because of this - while normal letters to the editor must be signed with home address, the Chronicle has requested that ours provide signature, home phone (which will not be published) and school address.

If the Muskegon Chronicle chooses to run your letter they will contact you for verification.

On the issue of Probation...

Some groups ran into personnel problems in MP#1. You have the opportunity to place group members on probation for MP#2. If one member in the group requests probation; all members are placed on probation. You will find the probationary contract here. Download it, fill it out, and submit it to Mr. Wood in the first week of the MP#2 A.C.T! study.

Probationary contracts are merely an Insurance Policy. You write out group member names, you decided what individual responsibilities will be, you write those down and each member is required to fulfill his or her contract. If at the end of the MP that contract is NOT fulfilled, then the said individual earns a zero for the A.C.T! grade. Other members who have fulfilled their contractual obligations will receive a temporary “I” and can choose how much time they need to complete the assignment. All members who fulfill their contract earn the same group grade for the Marking Period.