

E-Mail

Send letters to U.S. Senators

Internet

Find current topics and Senator addresses.

Microsoft PowerPoint

Create a slide show.

Scanner

Scan photographs or drawings to include in the slide show.

Library Materials

Research current events and find pictures to scan.

Lesson Goals

- Next Generation participants will choose an important issue or event and write about it to their Senators in Congress.
- Participants will produce a PowerPoint slide show reflecting their views on current issues.
- Participants will learn that they can express their opinions in a constructive way to the public and lawmakers.
- Participants will become familiar with the outlets they can use to express their views about different issues and events.
- Participants will become aware of local, state, national, and global topics and events.

Step by Step

1. Use Internet Explorer to open the CBC4Kids News Central site at <http://www.cbc4kids.ca/general/whats-new/daily-news/> . Read through the current news stories and choose a topic that interests you. If you aren't able to find a topic you like, search through library resources such as newspapers or magazines to find a current issue.
2. Write about your feelings on the issue by composing an e-mail message less than 300 words long.
3. After completing the e-mail message, open the site http://dir.yahoo.com/government/u_s_government/legislative_branch/senate/senators/ . Find both the Senators from Illinois.
4. Look for an address for either one where an e-mail message can be sent. Have students e-mail the Senator your views on the current issue(s).
5. Use library resources to find pictures that represent the given topic or event and use the scanner to scan them into the computer.
6. Using PowerPoint, create a presentation summarizing your views and incorporating scanned pictures.

Additional Activities

After several students have received replies from the Senators, allow them time to share the responses with the other students.