

Day 6

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

CHAPTER
10
SECTION 1

EXTEND ACTIVITY

Write to Your Senator or Representative

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Congress considers many bills during each session. Some bills are of special interest to students. Examples include bills concerning the minimum wage, freedom of speech, and regulation of the Internet.

- Step 1** Check the newspaper, TV, Internet, or some other source. Find out what bills are currently being considered in either the Senate or House of Representatives. Or, find out what bills have recently been passed. A good Web site to use is www.thomas.gov.
- Step 2** Find out who your senators and representative are. Call your city or county offices or check the library or the Internet to get the correct names and addresses.
- Step 3** Write a letter to either one of your senators or your representative about a bill being considered in Congress. Or, write about a bill that has recently been passed. Let your senator and representative know what you think about the bill or law.
- Step 4** When you write your letters, follow these tips.
- Use your own words.
 - Use your own stationery.
 - Do not send a form letter or a photocopied letter.
 - Identify the bill or law by its number or title or both.
 - Be positive.
 - If you do not agree with the bill, tell what you think the bill should include.
 - If you have experience with the issue, state these facts clearly.
 - Be brief.
 - Use the proper form of address, such as "Dear Senator Jones."
 - Go to the library and look for more hints in *Congress A to Z: A Ready Reference Encyclopedia*. The book was published by Congressional Quarterly, Inc., in 2008.
- Step 5** Send your letters by mail, fax, or e-mail. Keep a copy of both letters.
- Step 6** Share and discuss your answers from the senator and representative with the class. Talk about how well they addressed your concerns.