

# MP VISIT DEBRIEF AND FOLLOW-UP

After your MP visit, consider dedicating some additional class time to discussing the visit and following up with your MP to keep the conversation going.

In this debrief lesson, students are given a chance to share their reactions to the event, and raise any additional questions that were not addressed during the visit. The class will then create a letter that thanks the MP for their visit, and also presents 3-5 follow up questions in order to encourage an ongoing dialogue.

## STARTER

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To debrief the MP visit, start by having students share their feelings about the experience, and to recount some of the major takeaways.

As a class, discuss the following questions:

1. What was your favorite part of the MP visit?
2. What was your least-favorite part?
3. What was the most interesting thing you learned from the discussion with the MP?

## DISCUSSION: PUT YOUR TWO CENTS IN

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Explain to students that their next task will be to generate a list of questions that they want to include in a thank you letter to their MP. Students will brainstorm ideas using a *put your two cents in* discussion protocol that gives each student the opportunity to present their ideas and build on the ideas presented by their classmates.

1. Tell students that they will be discussing the following question in groups:

→ What is a question that you would like to ask your MP that was not addressed during their visit?

Questions can be about any topic or issue that the students find important that was not covered during the visit, or can seek more information or clarification about remarks that the MP made.

2. Provide each student with two tokens—this can be a coin, a chip, or really anything else. Let them know that each token represents an opportunity to speak and that they will speak twice in small groups during the activity: once to share their own idea, and once to respond to someone else's. They will need to listen attentively to what others say.
3. Divide students into groups of four. Each student takes a turn putting a token into the centre of the table and shares their ideas.
4. Once everyone has had a turn, each student puts their second token in the centre of the table and responds to something someone else has said. These statements may start with phrases such as "I agree with \_\_\_ because..." or "I would like to add something what \_\_\_ said" and so on. Students should use this opportunity to identify and refine the questions they think are the most important.
5. Once the small group discussions have finished, reconvene as a class. Have each group share the questions they brainstormed with the rest of the class.
6. Identify the most common and pressing questions. As a class, decide which 3-5 questions they would like to include in a follow-up letter to their MP.

# FOLLOW-UP LETTER

Letters can be mailed to your MP at the House of Commons without postage.

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January 30, 2024

Mr. John Doe, M.P.  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0A6

Dear Mr. Doe,

We are writing to express our sincere gratitude for taking the time to meet with our class at school name this year for Rep Day.

We especially enjoyed learning more about \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. We learned more about the challenges and rewarding aspects of the work of an elected MP. Something that surprised us to learn was \_\_\_\_\_.

We had a chance to discuss the visit as a class, and wanted to follow up with our reflections.

Our favourite part of the meeting was \_\_\_\_\_. One piece of constructive feedback we would like to share with you is X. We appreciate you answering our questions in class, and came up with 3-5 questions to continue our conversation:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

We hope to hear your responses to these questions, and our class looks forward to continuing to engage with democracy.

Yours sincerely,

Class of \_\_\_\_\_  
School Name, Riding