Reach Out and Write!
Educating Congress and Raising NWP’s Visibility

Here are some suggestions for staying in touch with legislators and asking other National Writing Project supporters (principals, university deans, parents, etc.) to do the same. Tell legislators something you did in your classroom this year or plan to do next year. Give them a glimpse—just one or two short paragraphs—of your site’s summer institute or another Writing Project program that is making a difference in your teaching. Let your voice be heard and your work be recognized!

Below are a few ideas for reaching out:

- **INVITE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO VISIT YOUR SITE.** This is a great way to give them firsthand exposure to local programs and to talk with them about NWP’s work.

- **WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS DURING THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OR AS PART OF OTHER SITE PROGRAMS.** Take the opportunity to write from your heart about the importance of Writing Project professional development.

- **WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.** This is a chance to share your excitement about returning to school with new plans and ideas. Include examples of your writing, such as op-ed pieces, your summer institute press release, and other reflections on the importance of writing and NWP’s impact on teachers and students in your area.

- **ASK FOR THIRD-PARTY LETTERS OF SUPPORT.** Encourage superintendents, principals, university presidents, parents, and other interested individuals to write letters of support to their senators and representatives in Congress. Refer supporters to the NWP Works! website for information about NWP’s status in the Obama administration’s budget and tips on how they can help. Click here for a sample letter.

- **INCREASE VISIBILITY FOR NWP.** Consider linking to the NWP website and the NWP Press Room in blogs, announcements, or other communications for the general public. Or point people to the archive of posts that are part of the blog4NWP campaign. Contact your local media about Writing Project activities, and send links about NWP-related news stories to your legislators.

Share your letters to Congress and any responses you receive by sending them to publicaffairs@nwp.org. This not only helps us keep up with the extraordinary work you do, but it also helps shape our national advocacy efforts.