



ADVOCATING FOR CHANGE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

To “advocate” for something means to stand up for it or give suggestions on how to make it happen. Students like you know a lot about what works in school and what you wish went differently. Through this writing, reflect on your life as a student and then create questions to ask teachers to help advocate for middle school students.

Conversations with great questions can help everyone brainstorm new ways of working.

FIND A TOPIC TO ADVOCATE FOR

Choose one. If you were in charge of a middle school, which would you advocate for the most?

- Bullying:** Are teachers doing enough to stop it? Do you feel supported? What should teachers do differently?
- Books:** What books should schools have that they don't? Should you get to choose what you read? What should teachers or schools do differently with books?
- Technology:** Do teachers trust students enough? What technology should all schools have? What apps or programs? What should more schools do with technology? What should teachers do differently?
- Teaching:** What should teachers change about how they teach reading and writing? What do your favorite teachers do that more should be doing? How should the classroom be set-up? What helps you? What doesn't?
- Learning:** What do you wish was taught in school that isn't? What do students really want to learn? What are you taught that does not matter to you? What topics or projects do favorite teachers do that all teachers should do?
- Grades and Homework:** Does homework help you learn? What makes it good or bad? What should be different with how you get grades? What helps you? What does not help you? What should teachers do differently?
- Out of School:** What clubs, activities, or sports should every school have? What do teachers not know that they should know? Do class field trips matter to you? What kinds of trips should more schools take?

PREWRITE: REFLECT ON YOUR EXPERIENCES

From this topic, go to a new page and write. Use these sentence starters to help, or use your own.

My experiences with this topic are...

What I wish more teachers would know/do is...

One time... Then...

This matters because...

Then what happened was....

CREATE ADVOCACY QUESTIONS

Reread your writing. On another new page that you can bring to a conversation or interview, make a list of 5-7 challenging questions or statements to get teachers talking.

Here, “challenging” does not mean “difficult,” instead it means questions that make someone really have to stop and think a lot about what they believe.