

## Lesson Plan: Issues Close to Home

### Connection to POS: Topic 6 - Skills for Participating in Civic Life

**Standard of Learning:** [HSS.12.9](#) The student will identify and distinguish among the units of local governments in Virginia, including counties, cities, towns, and regional authorities and will analyze a local public issue.

This lesson is designed to actively engage students in their role in local government by finding a topic in the news that touches their lives and then becoming proactive by sending a letter or email to their member of the Board of Supervisors about the issue.



### Objectives

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Use the local media to identify and take a position on an issue that affects their lives.
- Write a letter or email to their representative on the Board of Supervisors.



### Materials

- Access to the Fairfax Journal newspaper. (Online or in print.)



### Time Needed

- 1 to 2 class periods.



### Procedures

1. Students will access The Journal newspaper and identify an issue in the news that affects them.
2. Student will take detailed notes on the issue and identify how this issue affects them.
3. Students will then write a letter or email a letter to their local elected official concerning this issue.



### **Assessment**

Local issue is clearly identified. The information in the letter was clear, accurate, and reflective of the point of view of the writer. Grammar, punctuation and form of letter are correct.



### **Extensions**

If students receive a response to their letters, a class discussion can take place concerning the level of response (form letter vs. true interest by the elected official) and what the status is of their issue.