

Writing a postcard to our MP about school libraries

KS1 and KS2
Duration: One hour

Learning Objectives

- Develop skills in expressing ideas clearly and persuasively.
- Create a visually appealing postcard with illustrations.

Materials Needed

- Postcards will be supplied together with a pre-paid envelop for sending to your local MP
- Felt tip pens, crayons, coloured pencils
- Examples of postcards to an MP
- Sentence starter handout

Lesson outline

Introduction (10 minutes)

1. Discuss the purpose of the session

- Explain what an MP (Member of Parliament) is and their role in the community.
- Introduce the Libraries for Primaries campaign for putting a library in every primary school.
- Discuss why libraries are important (access to books, fostering a love of reading, a quiet place to study/to create/to find things out/to meet people).

Group discussion (15 minutes)

2. Brainstorm ideas

- Ask children why they think every school should have a library.
- Write down their ideas on the board.
- Prompt with questions like:
 - What do you love about libraries?
 - How do libraries help you in school/at home?

3. Introduce sentence starters:

- Hand out sentence starter cards resource/share on board to discuss with younger children:
- “I think every school should have a library because...”
- “Libraries are so important for children as they...”
- “Having a library in every school would help students by...”
- “I love reading because...”

Writing activity (20 minutes)

4. Drafting the postcard:

- Support children to use the ideas discussed and sentence starters to write their postcards.
- Encourage them to include:
 - A greeting (e.g., “Dear [MP’s Name],”)
 - A clear statement of their request (support for the campaign)
 - Reasons for their request - why they love their library and think every child should have access to one.
 - A polite closing (e.g., “Thank you for your time,” followed by their name)
- Offer support and walk around to help as children write.

Decorating the postcards (10 minutes)

5. Add illustrations:

- Once postcards are written, children can decorate them:
- Draw books or characters from their favourite stories.
- Illustrate what a library looks like or scenes of children reading.
- Draw books around the margin.

Plenary (5 minutes)

6. Share postcards:

- Invite a few children to share their postcards with the class if they feel comfortable
- Gather together / capture in photos to support the campaign activity

Extension activity

- Consider organising a class trip to the local library or a virtual meeting with a local MP to discuss the importance of school libraries.

