

Homework Assignment

Directions: write a letter to one Supreme Court Justice, your Congressional Representative or one of your U.S. Senators to express your view adding the citizenship question. Be sure to share whether you believe adding the citizenship question will negatively or positively impact California and the people who live there. You may offer both pros and cons to describe your personal perspective about this controversial and complex issue.

Prior to writing to your elected Senator(s) or Congressional Representative you will first need to confirm their names.

Visit the following website to identify the two U.S. Senators from California:

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact>

Senator #1_____ Senator #2_____

Visit the following website to find your Representative in the House:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

Congressman/woman _____

To Write to any of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States:

One First Street N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20543

Writing your letter

Directions: use the following outline to write a letter to your representatives in Congress or one of the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Be prepared to turn in one copy and send another copy to your chosen Representative, Senator, or Justice. **Study the rubric on the next page before you start writing.**

Dear _____

I. Introduce yourself and explain that you have been studying the issue of whether to include the citizenship question on the next U.S. Census in addition to examining data from the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources.

II. Explain the importance of California having sufficient representation in the federal government and why the census is essential in guaranteeing that California receives adequate representation.

III. Consider your pros and cons list about adding the citizenship question to the U.S. Census. Will there be more harm to California if the question is added or left out? Share what your conclusion about the impact on California and the 1 or 2 of the most significant factors that might cause California to be underrepresented in the census. Use the claims and evidence from your *Weigh the Pros and Cons* T-chart and be sure to cite the sources you read and analyzed to better support your argument. You may do additional research.

IV. Propose a solution that addresses the potential negative impact on California. Describe how you think the challenge you describe in the letter can be best addressed. Close by calling this person to action, in their role as a U.S. Senator, Representative or Supreme Court Justice, and make a commitment to take some sort of responsible action yourself.