Best Practices: Sharing Your Thoughts with Legislators

The new legislative session in Oklahoma begins Feb. 3. If you would like to contact your lawmakers in person, by phone or email about issues important to you, keep these tips in mind:

IDENTIFY YOURSELF: It’s important for your representative to know that you are a constituent. Include your residential address. Also identify your role as it relates to the issue. If you are writing about education, mention if you are a teacher and/or parent.

STICK TO THE POINT: Be clear and concise with your message. Be sure to state the action that is needed and include bill numbers if you are referring to specific legislation.

TELL YOUR STORY: Share your unique perspective and personal anecdotes. How would taking action improve your life or those of others around you?

BE RESPECTFUL: Extend the same courtesy to lawmakers that you expect students to extend in your classroom.

READ IT AGAIN: It’s easy to make mistakes, especially when you are short on time or are passionate about the topic. Double-check spelling and grammar when writing a letter. Even better, ask a colleague for feedback before sending the letter.