

TIPS FOR CLASSROOM VISITS

FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



1. **Ask the classroom teacher for students' questions ahead of time if possible.** This allows you to focus on their interests, and to prepare high-quality responses.



2. **No need to do a stump speech!** Be mindful that this is not a campaigning event. It's OK to ask the educator whether it is permitted to leave printed materials.



3. **Ask students questions about themselves!** Dialogue with students rather than monologue. Ask their opinions about current legislation under debate, especially if it's in the news.



4. **See it from their perspective.** Avoid using specialized jargon and acronyms and put yourself in the students' shoes - whether it's 1st or 11th graders, how can you translate your message into their terms?



5. **Leave students with a positive message.** They are proud of their communities and are often looking for opportunities to participate and engage.