

PIG Experiences

Individual Contact and Interview with a Public Official

You will need to contact 2 public officials and set up an interview. You are not limited to any of the questions that are provided. You are encouraged to create meaningful questions that meet the needs of your interview. It might be helpful to examine questions that some **possible questions** are:

- Biographical information, including reasons for seeking office
- Are they elected or appointed? What are the duties of the office?
- What are major issues facing this area today?
- Over the past 5/10 years what has been the most negative and the most positive impacts on the Livonia area?
- What would they like to see happen in the Livonia area in the next 10 years?
- What inspired you to strive for your current position?
- Would you say that discontent over the status quo had any impact on your goals?
- What advice would you give someone who wants to run for a similar position?
- Did any of your family members hold political offices and/or have strong involvement in politics? If yes, do you think this had an impact on your personal goals?
- How did you think you developed your leadership abilities?
- In your younger years, would you have ever imagined yourself in your current position? If not, where did you see yourself heading?
- You evidently have a passion for government. What is your favorite aspect of government?
- What is the official title of your position?
- What duties does your position entail?
- Were you elected or pointed to your position?
- What characteristic do you believe is the most important for a person of your position?
- What is one major issue that has been the center of your attention recently?
- Since you are a public official, you must have a vision for _____. What would you like to see happen in _____ in the next 10 years?
- Have you noticed any trends taking place in the “society of _____” in recent times that you would like to recommend? Any that you would like to end?

Some possible people to interview are a local legislator, judge, police official, or school board member. The interview can either be videotaped or written in a summary to hand in. **DO NOT merely give a list of questions to an interviewee** and have them answer the questions alone. Remember you are not giving a questionnaire, you are giving an interview. Make sure to **send a thank you** after the interview to show your appreciation.



Letter on an Important Issue

You will need to **write 2 different letters** using proper letter formatting. The letter should address an important local, state, or national issue. Yes they must be mailed. You must supply stamps for your letters.

- Choose an issue that interests you, one that you would like to learn more about.
- Be sure you have researched and thoughtfully crafted your letter. No Errors.
- Your opinion should be grounded with facts.
- It may be informative to include any possible questions you may have about your issue.
- A copy of your letter must be given to your instructor before your letter is mailed.
- **Possible Topics:** gun control, Abortion, drug laws, death penalty, taxes, War on Terror, health care, immigration, same sex marriage, economy, gas prices.
- **Politicians of National Interest:** Rep. Chris Lee, Senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Charles Schumer, Vice President Joseph Biden, President Barack Obama
- **Politicians of State Interest:** State Senator Dale Volker, State Assemblyman Joe Ergo, Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, Governor David Patterson
- **Politicians of Local Interest:** Livonia Town Board Members Angela Grouse, Andy English, Matt Gascon, Frank Seelos, village of Livonia Mayor Cal Lathan, Livonia deputy Mayor Chris Genthner, Livonia Supervisor Eric Gott, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors James C. Merrick

Livingston County Directory

http://www.co.livingston.state.ny.us/pdfs/county_directory.pdf

Personal Business Letter

PUT YOUR OWN ADDRESS HERE

1 Ward Ave. (This is the return address-no name needed)
Livonia, NY 14487 (space **twice** before the zip code)
Date (return 4 times here)

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500 (space **twice** before the zip code)(**return 2** times from here)

Dear Mr. President (no need for a comma after greeting)(**return twice**)

BODY (do not indent paragraphs, **single** space within the paragraphs, and **double space** between new paragraphs)(**return twice** after last paragraph)

Respectfully, Sincerely, Yours truly (return **4** times)

(Your signature)

Your name typed

