



Tips for Discussing Policy Disagreements with an Elected Official

Talking to an elected official when disagreeing with their policy can be a productive and respectful conversation if approached correctly. Here's how to do it effectively:

1. Be Prepared

- **Do Your Research:** Understand the policy you disagree with, why it exists, and what its potential impacts are.
- **Gather Evidence:** Bring facts, statistics, or personal stories that support your argument.
- **Know Their Position:** Be familiar with the official's stance so you can anticipate their perspective.

2. Stay Respectful & Professional

- Avoid personal attacks or aggressive language.
- Address them formally (e.g., "Representative [Last Name]" or "Senator [Last Name]").
- Acknowledge any positive work they've done, even if you disagree on this issue.

3. Be Clear & Concise

- Focus on one or two key points rather than a long list of complaints.
- If possible, offer an alternative solution or compromise.
- Stick to a structured format: **Introduce yourself, state your concern, provide supporting reasons, and request action.**

4. Share Personal Stories

- Officials respond better when they see how policies affect real people.
- If a policy negatively impacts you or your community, explain how.

5. Ask for Action

- Be specific about what you want them to do (e.g., vote against a bill, support an amendment, meet with impacted individuals).
- If they won't commit, ask what concerns they have and how they could be addressed.

6. Follow Up

- Send a thank-you email or letter summarizing your conversation.
- Stay engaged by attending town halls or public forums.
- Continue advocating through community groups or media.

More specific language ideas can be found in the "[Meeting Script for Discussing Policy Disagreements with an Elected Official](#)" document.