



## Science Advocacy Resources

### Step 3: Talking Points Prompts for Communicating with Elected Officials

After [identifying your audience](#) and [doing your homework](#) to help tailor your message, you start writing your draft. Here we have included some prompts to help you develop talking points that will be incorporated into your final communication.

- I am writing to introduce myself as a constituent. My name is *[name]* at *[institution]*. I study *[research area]*.
  - Add any personal connection to the office.
  - Remember you are writing as a constituent, not as a representative of your institution.
- For *[number]* years I have experienced and/or witnessed the return on the federal investment in science because...
  - My research is federally funded
  - I work in a lab that is federally funded
  - I use federally funded data sets
  - I have federal funding to thank for my graduate training
  - Other *[fill in your own details]*
- I have been reading about some dramatic changes in federal funding for science and health agencies and wanted to share my perspective, in case helpful.
- Here are the ways I have seen the federal investment benefit:
  - My department
  - My university
  - Our community
  - Our state
  - Our country
- Here are my concerns:
  - Interruptions in funding are consequential to science and scientists
    - US will prepare fewer PhDs, threatening international competitiveness
    - US will lose trainees to other countries
  - Proposals are damaging to the STEM workforce
  - Put us at a disadvantage in terms of international competitiveness
  - Longer term consequences to health and health outcomes
    - Disruption of clinical trials will slow the development of live-saving and live-enhancing treatments
  - Other *[add your own details]*

**Additional Resources**

- [JAMA: The Value of Academic Health Research](#)
- [Impoundment Report: Tracking the Federal Funding Freeze & Legal Fight](#)
- Scholars Strategy Network: [Best Practices for Writing Useful Policy Talking Points](#)

**NIH**

- [NIH Research Portfolio Online Reporting Tools \(RePORT\)](#)
  - [NIH Awards by Location & Organization](#)
- United for Medical Research: [NIH in Your State](#)
- James S. Murphy: [The Impact of an NIH 15% Indirect Cost Rate](#)

**NSF**

- [NSF by the Numbers](#) – Search funding information by state, award, and institution
  - [NSF in Your State Fact Sheet](#)
- [NSF Implementation of Recent Executive Orders](#)

**Science Funding and the Economy**

- Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology: [Federal Research Funding Data](#)
- United for Medical Research: [NIH's Role in Sustaining the U.S. Economy](#)
- American Enterprise Institute: [In Praise of Science Investment, Especially Basic Research](#)
- National Bureau of Economic Research: [Estimating the Economic and Budgetary Effects of Research Investments](#)

**Executive Orders – Analysis**

- Education Counsel: [Summary and Analysis of Trump Administration Executive Actions Impacting Education](#)