

## Persuasive Letter Writing Examples

A Worried Teacher  
Secondary School  
UK  
PO BOX 123  
Thursday 9th April 2020

Secretary of State for Education  
Sanctuary Buildings  
20 Great Smith Street  
SW1P 3BT

Dear Secretary of State,

It is with great urgency that I write to you concerning the current state of UK education. The current system is failing our children and must be radically overhauled by you, the only individual with power enough to do so. I am appealing to you for urgent assistance.

One of the most striking pieces of evidence that the school system needs reviewing is that of (dis)engagement. Young people are not engaged in learning. Indeed, they resent it. They do not believe that it holds any real relevance to their lives, nor do they have any enjoyment in it. School should be fun! Do you not recall the age-old saying that adults employed when you were young – ‘enjoy school, school days are the best days of your life’? Schools now eat exams, breathe exams, live exams. Children loathe this constant testing. UK children are the most tested in the world; it is little wonder they also have the highest rates of depression. They feel their worth is linked to a grade, and are forced to feel like failures when they do not hit their computer-generated targets. By creating a society in which children hate learning, we are limiting the progress of humanity. We need to act now to stop this happening.

Another reason that is closely interlinked with disengagement is the relevance of the education system. Lessons have become a battleground where information is spoon-fed and force-fed – the main ammunition being the threat of exams and success in life: ‘you must do this to get good results, to get a good job’ etc. Why doesn’t the education system prepare them for life? Children should leave school with communication skills, listening skills and literacy skills, with the ability to pay their taxes. Students also need to understand how the world they live in is governed. A 16-year-old student I teach was unaware we even had a Prime Minister! How, we must ask, can this be the case? We need to make the education system relevant before we fail more children.

Finally, and most obviously, the system needs reviewing precisely because it has never been reviewed! We have not modified the system since the Victorian era! The Victorian era! The age of workhouses and industrialisation before children had rights and women had suffrage. Our education system is from a time of chalkboards, public executions and immorality. Back to a time when we understood less than 1% of our brains! If we continue to use this outdated system, disaster will ensue: there will be more crime, more mental illness, more suicide. Let us take the brave stand and change this! We can be the worldwide leaders of education reform.

Only you have the power to implement real change – I beseech you to do so. Let your legacy be one of courage. Transform the lives of this generation and generations to come.

I know you will do the right thing.

Yours faithfully,

A Worried Teacher

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Dear Secretary of State,

It is with great urgency that I write to you concerning the current state of UK education, and the crippling nature of the demands that are being placed upon young people in schools. The current system is failing our children and must be radically overhauled by you, the only individual with power enough to do so, before it leaves a generation of lost, disillusioned youth in its wake. We are in the midst of a ticking time bomb. I am appealing to you for urgent assistance. The urgency of which is outlined below.

One of the most striking pieces of evidence that the school system needs reviewing is that of (dis)engagement. Young people are not engaged in learning. Indeed, they resent it. They do not believe that it holds any real relevance to their lives, nor do they have any enjoyment in it. School should be fun! Do you not recall the age-old saying that adults zealously employed when you were young – ‘enjoy school, school days are the best days of your life’? Schools now eat exams, breathe exams, live exams. Children loathe this constant testing. UK children are the most tested in the world, it is little wonder they also have the highest rates of depression. They feel their worth is linked to a grade, and are forced to feel like failures when they do not hit their computer-generated targets. By creating a society in which children hate learning, we are limiting the progress of humanity. How will we create future generations of Einsteins, Shakespeares and Hawkings without a love of learning? If young people turn away from education, humanity will suffer, as will they. They will turn inwards and live their lives behind a screen (which is happening more and more by the day)! We are suffocating the natural-born curiosity children have for the world around them, and making them dread their daily existence in, what has previously been regarded as, the only truly care-free chapter of their lives.

Another reason that is closely interlinked to disengagement is the relevance of the education system. Or indeed its irrelevance. Students are aware of the farcical nature of the exams they sit, the lessons they study, and the skills they develop, and they readily question them. Lessons become a battleground where information is spoon-fed and force-fed – the main ammunition being the threat of exams and success in life: ‘you must do this to get good results, to get a good job’ etc. Why does the education system not prepare them for life? God forbid that children should leave school with highly advanced communication skills, listening skills and literacy skills, with the ability to pay their taxes, effectively communicate with their peers and understand how the world they live in is governed. A 16-year-old student I teach was unaware we even had a Prime Minister! How, we must ask, can it be that in a ‘developed’ country, children leave school with no understanding of the political system that decides how their daily lives pan out? Education is supposed to be the key to social mobility. In this country, it further entrenches class divide and inequality by remaining so completely irrelevant.

Finally, and most obviously, the system needs reviewing precisely because it has never been reviewed! We have not modified the system since the Victorian era! The Victorian era! The age of workhouses and industrialisation before children had rights and women had suffrage. Students are forced to ‘buy in’ to an antiquated system that is more reminiscent of a factory than a nurturing centre. Education should facilitate intellectual, emotional and social growth. It does not. One would think, in light of the advent of technology, the immense progress we have seen in Science and the greater understanding of human development, both neurological and emotional, that we would have created a system that advanced with the times. Alas, we have not. Our education system harks back to a time of chalkboards, public executions and immorality. Back to a time when we understood less than 1% of our brains! If we continue to use this archaic system, disaster will ensue: there will be more crime, more mental illness, more suicide. Let us take the brave stand and change this! We can be the worldwide leaders of education reform – the torchbearers.

Only you have the power to implement real change – I beseech you to do so. Let your legacy be one of courage. Transform the lives of this generation and generations to come.

I know you will do the right thing.

Yours faithfully,

A Worried Teacher