Wisconsin Student Government

Wisconsin Technical College Advocacy Group

Established 1972

[www.wsgtech.com](http://www.wsgtech.com)

**Preparing to Meet with Your Representatives**

Attending the WSG Legislative Seminar is only one part of the Legislative Seminar experience. You should take what you learned during each of the sessions and bring your story to the elected officials who represent you and the other students in your district. Here are some steps to help you feel more comfortable and confident when you meet with them.

1. **Set up your appointments**
	1. Find out who represents you here: <https://maps.legis.wisconsin.gov/>
	2. As you are making your appointment through someone in the representative’s office, make sure to tell them that you live in their district and that you want to speak with them on behalf of the Wisconsin Student Government and students from your college.
	3. If your representatives are not available to meet, set up a meeting with a member of their staff. The staff are usually the ones to do research and synthesize information so your message will still reach your representatives even if you don’t meet with them directly.
2. **Do your research**
	1. Familiarize yourself with the Position Paper and the video.
	2. Read about your representatives before you meet them. Check out the committees they are on, legislation they’ve sponsored, and how they are involved in the local community.
3. **Plan for your meeting**
	1. Practice your introductions
	2. If lobbying with other students, coordinate who will speak about what
	3. Focus your conversation on one of the positions, following up after the meeting by sharing the full Position Paper with them.
	4. Tell your story! The individual stories of the representative’s constituents matter. It will make your visit with them stand out. Share your own story as it relates to a position or share the story of another student about what a difference could be made by a change in the position. (There will be time to practice this on February 21st.)
4. **Follow Up**
	1. Send your representative or a member of their staff a thank you email for meeting with you, along with an electronic copy of the Position Paper.
	2. Follow up on any questions that they asked you during the meeting that you didn’t have the answers for.