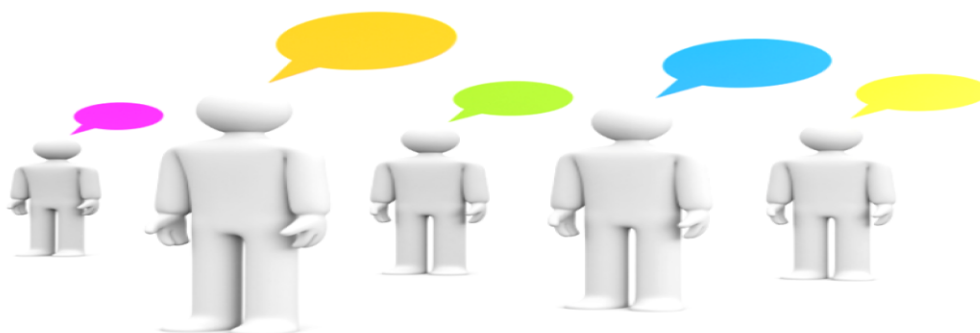


## Making Your Voice Heard – the How and Why

*Expressive engagement* refers to “open ended efforts to influence the state by organizing public deliberation”<sup>1</sup> such as

- **Contacting an Official**
- **Using Print Media**
- **Petitioning**
- **Political blogs**
- **Protesting**
- **Boycotting/ Buycotting**
- **Canvassing**
- **Writing Letters to the Editor**

*Expressive engagement* is essentially using your voice in politics; in other words, speaking up about things that may affect your life. Another definition of *expressive engagement* is using one’s “public voice; the way citizens give expression to their views on public issues”<sup>2</sup>. If there is something you don’t like, expressive engagement allows you to reach out and try and change it. Democracy enables us to express ourselves and voice our opinions through various mediums. Take advantage of it!



<sup>1</sup> Levine, Peter. *The Future of Democracy: Developing the next Generation of American Citizens*. Medford, MA: Tufts UP, 2007. Print.

<sup>2</sup> Zukin, Cliff. *A New Engagement?: Political Participation, Civic Life, and the Changing American Citizen*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006. Print.