

Appendix A Sample Mail Cover Letter

Register to Vote in the November Election!

MTSU is sending you this form as part of the American Democracy Project, a nonpartisan nationwide effort to increase the civic engagement of college students.

You can use this form to:

- register to vote for the first time (or if your registration has been purged).
- change your address.
- report a change in your name.

When completing the form:

- Use blue or black ink (not felt tip).
- Write legibly.
- Complete all items (leave item 8 blank if you have never registered before). Your Social Security number is required by state law.
- Check the appropriate boxes under "Voter Declaration." Make sure not to check the wrong box to question 4.
- Sign the form by the "X".

If you live on campus and want to vote in Murfreesboro, item 3 should be completed as follows:

1301 E. Main St. Murfreesboro Rutherford 37132

In item 4, list your MTSU P.O. Box

If you live off campus and want to vote in Murfreesboro, simply provide your off campus address.

If you want to register to vote in a Tennessee county other than Rutherford, you CAN use this form. We will make sure that it is turned in to the right place. Just remember that you will have to go to that county to cast your vote (or arrange for an absentee ballot).

Return this form by **Tuesday September 29** to the MTSU Department of Political Science. You can send it through campus mail to Box 29 or drop it off at Peck Hall 209.

APPENDIX B: Sample Email Scripts

MESSAGE #1 (send Monday September 18, 2006)

Subject line: Why do politicians ignore you?

Do you have an issue you care about? Maybe it's the environment, or terrorism or healthcare or the availability of jobs. Some issues are so large that they seem impossible to address as just one individual, but you can make a contribution and have a voice in these issues. You just have to get someone to listen to you.

Politicians tend to ignore the issues college students care about because too many college students do not vote. I urge you to vote in the national election on Tuesday November 7. But you can't vote if you are not registered.

It's easy to register to vote. Just click on this link [CAMPUS LINK HERE](#) and you can register right now. However, if you don't register by early October (as early as October 6 in many states), you can't vote this year.

Let the politicians hear your voice. Please vote. Register NOW so you can.

MESSAGE #2 (send Monday September 25, 2006)

Subject line: Educated citizens vote. How about you?

Politicians pay attention to those citizens who vote. They are not likely to care much about the issues of college students who do not vote. Part of the purpose of a college education is to prepare you to be active, engaged citizens in our democracy. At a very minimum, that means being able to vote.

Our democracy depends on voters. Our democracy depends on you voting. Are you registered to vote? You can register right now. Just click on this link [CAMPUS LINK HERE](#) and you can register to vote. If you don't register by early October (as early as October 6 in many states), you can't vote this year.

Get engaged, get registered to vote and then make your voice heard by voting in the national election on Tuesday, November 7th.

MESSAGE #3 (send Monday October 2, 2006)

Subject line: Time is running out to register to vote

Have you registered to vote yet? If you don't register to vote by early October (as early as October 6 in many states), you can't vote in this year's national election on Tuesday, November 7th. Residents of [INSERT YOUR STATE HERE] must register by [INSERT YOUR REGISTRATION DEADLINE HERE]

Register to vote before it's too late. You can register right now. Just click on this link [CAMPUS LINK HERE](#).

Take an active role in our democracy. Help ensure that the issues you care about are addressed by elected officials.

APPENDIX C Sample Script for Classroom Presentations (Peer)

- **This script may be shortened and adapted if necessary.**
- **No partisan opinions or bias may be introduced.**
- **No partisan t-shirts or buttons may be worn.**
- **Volunteers should MEMORIZE the presentation.**
 - ✓ Practice the presentation out loud before presenting in a classroom.
 - ✓ Concentrate on delivery.
 - ✓ Speak slowly so that people can fully digest what you're saying.
 - ✓ Speak clearly so that everyone can hear you.
 - ✓ Vary your tone and pace for emphasis.

Hi. My name is _____, and I am a student at [campus name]. [Campus name] is working with a coalition of public colleges and universities across the nation to make sure that students and young people are heard in the fall 2006 elections.

I am here to make sure that young people turn out to vote this November so that we can get attention paid to students and to the issues that matter to us.

So let me tell you about what's going on in the elections right now, and what we are doing.

First, I think most of us see some of what is going on with the elections: The ads, the news about this candidate and that candidate. But mostly it seems pretty much like the whole thing is going on without us. Especially here in (X STATE) it seems like the election is everywhere you turn, but often has little to do with us.

It's not surprising really. Even though there are 24 million people between 18 and 24 in this country, older people – like over 65 - they vote at twice the rate that we do. Campaigns just know those people are going to vote. That is why the ads are talking about prescription drugs and Medicare. That's why they spend so much money making phone calls and sending pieces of mail to older people trying to get them to vote for this candidate or that candidate.

How many people here are on Medicare? C'mon don't be shy now. Raise your hands if you are on Medicare.

Right. Now how about those of you who could use more financial aid to help pay for college? We don't hear a lot of talk about that. Go ahead, raise your hands.

Right. There are a lot of important things going on right now that affect students' lives. Getting a good job, paying for college or deciding what happens with the war in Iraq. It's not like we all have the same opinion on this stuff just because we are young people or students, but we do need politicians to pay attention to these issues and to pay attention to us.

But a lot of it comes down to voting and what we do on Election Day this November.

Our coalition is all about getting young people registered and out to vote. Of course, we want non-traditional students to register to vote too. As students, they understand many of the issues confronting young people today. But our primary goal is to get at least 40,000 college students (under the age of 30) registered to vote, including 400 here at [campus name]. And we are one of more than 80 colleges that is doing this all across the country—and that's just counting schools in our coalition.

Each of you has a voter registration form on your desk. I'm asking you take just a couple of minutes to complete them now. I'll collect them now and be sure that they are turned in to the proper voter registration office. It's important that you register NOW, before you forget. [School name] will even send the form in for you!

Personal story . . . Rap Up . . . *(optional)*