

## Quick Tips for Delivering Effective Statements

- Dress respectfully. Business casual is best—no T-shirts or jeans unless your group has decided to wear matching shirts with messaging. If you want to show you represent a diverse group of community members and stakeholders, you may want to dress in regular clothing rather than in one color.
- Review your assigned statement beforehand, and do your best to become familiar with it. Statements do not need to be memorized. If curriculum examples are quoted, read them word for word.
- Respectfully address the chair of the meeting, for example:

*“Good evening Madame Chair and distinguished board members (or legislators, depending on your audience). Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you tonight to address this important issue.”*

- After introducing yourself, thank the board or legislators for their service and for providing a public hearing to receive input from the community.
- Try to make eye contact with the board members/legislators and smile, especially when you are introducing yourself.
- Decide where the appropriate emphasis may be added so that your delivery is impactful without being over the top.
- Please keep anger and forcefulness out of your delivery. Remain calm, rational, and be likable.
- Do not make personal attacks on board members or legislators.
- Use health-based, rational arguments that apply to all students. Though it may be your faith that compels you to speak out, your statement should be aimed at persuading people of other faiths or no faith at all.
- If you don't have a prepared statement, sign up to speak anyway and simply state your position and sit down. You could also simply make a brief statement of support of an effective point someone else has made previously.