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*The following are some sample questions that you may want to address in your meetings with legislators and staff during your visit to Sacramento. See what resonates with you and craft an answer in your own words! Remember to keep it brief – and stick to your own experience.*

**1. Why do the arts matter to you personally?** “Arts” can be so many things – playing or composing music, listening to music, writing poetry, acting, designing theater set or a poster, dancing, singing, painting.

* They give me a way to express who I am
* It offers a different way to communicate ideas and feelings
* I can take risks and learn something new
* It stretches my imagination and my sense of what’s possible
* It fosters innovation and creativity
* It helps me learn about other cultures and develop empathy

**2. Can you think of a quick story of how participating in theater changed something for you? Perhaps.**

* You got to know people you might not have
* You did something you didn’t think you could do
* You came up with a new idea or way to solve a problem
* You learned something about yourself

**3. Why did you get involved in this advocacy campaign? Why is it important to advocate for the arts?**

* Arts programs are often the first thing to get cut when budgets are tight. Our state budget crisis has forced many districts to cut or eliminate art programs
* If students speak up that we can help keep art in schools
* It’s important for young people to express themselves in the larger world and let elected officials know we care about the arts!
* The arts should be a core part of every student’s education
* Every student to be able to experience what I have experienced from the arts



In addition to talking about your personal connection to the arts, you can also communicate your support for …..

Senate Bill 916 – The Theatre and Dance Act (TADA!)

BACKGROUND

Under the current system, persons who major in dance as an undergraduate can only teach dance after obtaining a credential in Physical Education, (or with SMA or CTE).  A theatre undergraduate major can only teach theatre after receiving an English credential, or with SMA or CTE. SB 916 would establish credentials in Theatre and in Dance, similar to the credentials that currently exist for Music and Visual Arts teachers.

WHY SUPPORT SB 916

It’s good for our students: It will enable students to receive dance and theatre instruction from teachers who have been trained to deliver standards-based learning in the classroom.

It’s the right thing to do. Dance and theatre deserve the same recognition as music and visual arts. This is legislation that can make a difference in how students learn about dance and theater.

Urge your legislator to vote YES on SB 916!