

Dear [TEACHER/FACULTY MEMBER],

I am writing to provide meaningful context to my planned absence on Friday, May 24th, because I will be exercising my first amendment rights with students across the DC-area to protest the U.S. support of the genocide happening in Gaza.

I will join a peaceful march/rally alongside hundreds of students across the DMV who will be striking from school and joining a rally instead. I will instead be joining the student movement in D.C. to fight for an end to American funding of Israel military assault and a call for immediate and permanent ceasefire from the U.S. government. I am letting you know these details because it is important to start dialogues within our school about the atrocities taking place on our tax dollars, and we must be cognisant of global issues.

I, as a student and young person, am horrified by recent events. Over the past 200+ days, we have seen a tragedy unfold in Palestine. As the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) refuses to cease its attacks on Gaza, over 40,000 casualties have been reported in the past few months alone. These attacks have taken over 40,00 lives, over 12,300 of which are children. And our government, the United States, is funding this atrocity, sending billions in military aid to Israel's military, while telling us there's not enough funding for our schools. When our fellow students at college campuses across the nation rose up to speak against their universities investments in this genocide, they were met with repression and violence from their administrations. Alongside these attacks against our fellow students is repression right here in D.C. high schools, with Jackson-Reed High School silencing Palestinian and Arab students for speaking out against the genocide of their people. I can no longer stand by idly and do business as usual as our government funds the slaughter of tens of thousands, and while our schools silence those who speak out against it. This is why I am striking.

Please reach out to me with any questions or concerns. The organizers of the action (led by fellow high school students) are also happy to discuss any concerns you may have. You can reach them at schoolstrike4gazadm@gmail.com.

Thank you,

[STUDENT NAME]