



**PROTECT OUR KIDS**  
NEW MEXICO FAMILY ACTION FOUNDATION

## **PARENT TOOL KIT: A GUIDE TO NAVIGATING PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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EMPOWERING PARENTS.  
PROTECTING CHILDREN.  
PRESERVING TRUTH.

## WELCOME LETTER

*From the Leadership of New Mexico Family Action Foundation*  
**Protect Our Kids Initiative**

Dear Parent,

Welcome—and thank you for taking the first step to protect what matters most: your children.

Here in New Mexico, families are facing a quiet crisis. Schools, once places of learning and trust, have increasingly become battlegrounds for ideological agendas that disregard the values of parents and the innocence of children. Instead of being supported, moms and dads are being sidelined—kept in the dark, stripped of their rights, and even labeled as threats for speaking up.

That's why we created the *Protect Our Kids* initiative. We believe every parent deserves to be informed, equipped, and empowered. You are your child's first and most important teacher, and no government program or school policy will ever replace that sacred role.

This starter kit was designed with one purpose: to shine a light on what's happening in our schools—and to hand that light to you.

Inside, you'll find helpful resources, opt-out templates, and practical guides to help you take action—whether that means attending your first school board meeting or simply having a conversation with your child's teacher. You don't need a degree in education or a background in politics to make a difference. You just need to care—and you do.

At New Mexico Family Action Foundation, we're committed to standing with parents like you who are ready to protect their families, defend truth, and raise children who are rooted in moral clarity and courage. You are not alone—and you are not powerless.

Together, we can protect our kids, restore parental rights, and reclaim the future of education in our state.

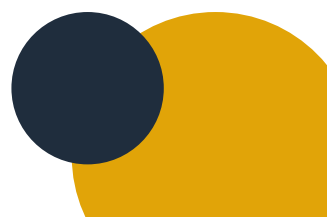
For faith, family, and freedom,



Jodi Hendricks

Executive Director

New Mexico Family Action Foundation



# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARENT IN NEW MEXICO


*Your Child. Your Voice. Your Rights*

As a parent, you have God-given and constitutionally protected rights when it comes to your child's education, medical care, and moral development. But in New Mexico, those rights are increasingly being challenged by harmful state policies. Here's what you need to know:

## EDUCATION & CURRICULUM TRANSPARENCY

You have the right to:

- **Review curriculum and instructional materials** used in your child's classroom (NMAC 6.75.2.8).
- **Be notified** about sex education and controversial topics being taught.
- **Opt your child out** of any instruction that conflicts with your religious or moral beliefs.
- **Request alternative assignments** in place of objectionable materials.
- **Attend and speak** at school board meetings that influence curriculum decisions.

 *Tip: Submit a written request to your child's school principal for curriculum review and opt-out information.*

## MEDICAL CONSENT & HEALTH PRIVACY

You have the right to:

- **Consent to or deny** any non-emergency medical treatment for your child.
- **Refuse mental health evaluations or counseling** conducted without your permission.
- **Access all medical and counseling records** held by the school or district.

## BUT—KNOW THIS: NEW MEXICO POLICY CONFLICTS WITH THESE RIGHTS

Recent NM laws and guidance now:

- Allow schools to create **"gender support plans"** without notifying parents.
- Permit teachers and staff to **withhold information** about your child's new pronouns, name, or identity changes if the child requests secrecy.
- Enable public institutions and individuals to **facilitate gender-affirming care for minors without parental consent**—and legally protect them from accountability.

**!** *These policies violate the spirit of federal protections like FERPA and the constitutional rights of parents but are currently active and enforced in NM public schools.*

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AS A PARENT IN NEW MEXICO

*Your Child. Your Voice. Your Rights*

## PARENTAL ACCESS & FEDERAL PROTECTIONS

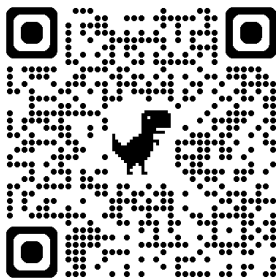
Under federal law, you still have the right to:

- **Access your child's education records**, including counseling notes and gender support plans (FERPA).
- **Be informed about surveys or interventions** that gather personal information (PPRA).
- Direct your child's upbringing and moral instruction (as upheld in *Troxel v. Granville* and *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*).

## WHAT PARENTS CAN STILL DO:

- **Demand transparency:** You still have the right to request your child's full school record, including guidance notes, email correspondence, and support plans.
- **Submit formal opt-out and parental rights notifications** to your district and principal.
- **Join with other parents** to speak up at school board meetings and push for local policies that protect your role.
- **Support legislative action** to roll back these harmful policies and re-establish parental rights as primary.

## JOIN THE MOVEMENT. PROTECT YOUR FAMILY.



<https://nmfam.org/protect-our-kids>

**New Mexico Family Action Foundation | Protect Our Kids**



# RED FLAGS IN EDUCATION: WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*How to recognize when ideology is replacing education.*

Today's classrooms often include content that goes far beyond reading, writing, and math. While many terms sound positive or neutral on the surface, they can often mask deeper agendas that challenge your family's values and parental authority.

Here's a guide to some common educational terms and trends—what they really mean and why parents should take notice:

## GENDER IDEOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

Buzzwords to watch for:

- "Gender Identity Exploration"
- "Pronoun Practice" / "Gender Spectrum"
- "Safe Space for LGBTQ+ Students"
- "Transition Plan" or "Affirming Name"

**Why it matters:** These programs often teach children—sometimes as early as kindergarten—that **biological sex is irrelevant**, and that they can choose or change their gender. Many schools do this **without informing parents**, and some encourage secrecy between student and family.

## EXTREME SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Buzzwords to watch for:

- "Equity-Based SEL"
- "Transformative SEL"
- "Healing-Centered Education"
- "Restorative Practices"

**Why it matters:** While SEL can teach valuable emotional tools, many programs have shifted into **values-based indoctrination**—teaching children to question their identity, embrace activist causes, or distrust their parents' beliefs. It's **emotional manipulation cloaked in care**.

# RED FLAGS IN EDUCATION: WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*How to recognize when ideology is replacing education.*

## CRITICAL RACE THEORY (CRT)-ALIGNED CONTENT

Buzzwords to watch for:

- “Anti-Racism Curriculum”
- “Culturally Responsive Teaching”
- “Dismantling Systems of Oppression”
- “White Privilege” or “Oppressor/Oppressed”

**Why it matters:** These programs teach that identity is defined primarily by race and that children should **view themselves and others through a lens of guilt, victimhood, or division**. They often bypass actual history in favor of ideological storytelling.

## COMPREHENSIVE SEXUALITY EDUCATION (CSE)

Buzzwords to watch for:

- “Inclusive Sex Ed”
- “Gender-Affirming Healthcare”
- “Consent-Based Curriculum”
- “Pleasure-Centered Education”

**Why it matters:** Often graphic and age-inappropriate, these programs **normalize early sexual behavior**, teach children about masturbation and pornography, and promote **gender transition** as a healthy option for questioning kids—**without parent knowledge or approval**.

► *Progressive legislators have already tried to run a CSE bill in the 2025 Legislature, making the course a requirement for graduation in New Mexico. Thanks to the work of NMFAM and Sen. Jay Block, we stopped the bill! We must be prepared for them to run it again.*


# RED FLAGS IN EDUCATION: WHAT TO WATCH FOR

*How to recognize when ideology is replacing education.*

## SUBTLE INDOCTRINATION TOOLS

Other red flags include:

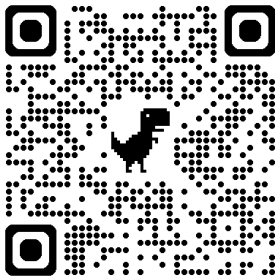
- School forms asking children their pronouns
- Teachers posting personal political/sexual identity flags in class
- Books with mature themes in elementary school libraries
- Assignments about activism or identity politics

 **Parents—not the government—should guide a child’s moral, spiritual, and sexual development.** If you see these red flags, it’s time to ask questions, request documentation, and speak up.

## STAY INFORMED. STAY INVOLVED.

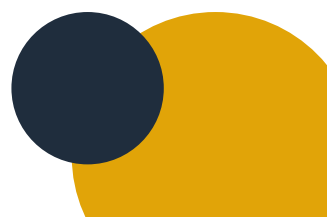
- Review your child’s assignments and class materials
- Talk to teachers and principals about lesson content
- Know your opt-out rights and assert them
- Connect with other parents through Protect Our Kids

## PROTECT OUR KIDS | KNOW THE SIGNS. TAKE A STAND.



<https://nmfam.org/protect-our-kids>

**New Mexico Family Action Foundation | Protect Our Kids**





# SCHOOL BOARD ENGAGEMENT 101

*How to show up, speak up, and shape your child's education.*

Your local school board has more influence over your child's education than any federal or state official. They decide curriculum, library content, sex education programs, and school policies. That means you have the power to influence what happens—when you engage.

Here's how to start:



## STEP 1: KNOW YOUR SCHOOL BOARD

- Look up your school district's website and identify:
  - Your school board members
  - The meeting calendar
  - The policies being reviewed or adopted
- Sign up for email alerts or board agendas to stay informed.



*Tip: Many districts archive previous meetings online. Watch a few to learn the tone and structure before attending in person.*



## STEP 2: ATTEND MEETINGS CONSISTENTLY

- Dress respectfully, bring notes, and arrive early to sign up for public comment.
- Bring another parent or friend for support—presence matters.
- If you don't feel ready to speak yet, that's okay. Listen, observe, and take notes.



## STEP 3: MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

You have the right to submit public comments and speak at meetings.

To prepare:

- Focus on 1–2 key points
- Speak as a parent, not a partisan
- Keep it under the time limit (usually 2–3 minutes)
- Use facts and personal experience
- End with a clear ask (e.g., "I urge you to vote NO on \_\_\_")



*"I'm a parent in this district, and I'm concerned about..." is more powerful than quoting headlines.*





# SCHOOL BOARD ENGAGEMENT 101

*How to show up, speak up, and shape your child's education.*



## STEP 4: SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TOO

- Email the board or district superintendent with your thoughts
- CC the board secretary so it's added to public record
- Use respectful language, but be firm and clear in your position



## STEP 5: MULTIPLY YOUR IMPACT

- Invite other parents to attend or submit comments
- Share meeting dates in your church group or parent circle
- Organize a **"Protect Our Kids" turnout night**—strength is in numbers
- Follow up with board members after votes (especially if they represented you well)

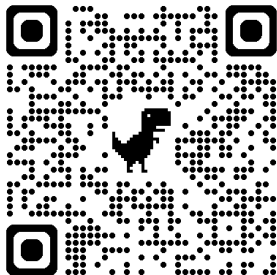


## REMEMBER: YOU ARE THE AUTHORITY.

You are not a nuisance. You are a parent with a right and responsibility to shape the environment your child learns in. School boards work for you, not the other way around.



## DOWNLOAD TALKING POINTS, SAMPLE SCRIPTS, AND OPT-OUT LETTERS AT:



<https://nmfam.org/protect-our-kids>

**New Mexico Family Action Foundation | Protect Our Kids**

# OPT-OUT TEMPLATE LETTERS

*Downloadable/editable templates for opting out of sexual health, pronoun usage policies, surveys, etc.*



## 1. OPT-OUT OF SEXUAL HEALTH/COMPREHENSIVE SEX EDUCATION

Subject: Request to Opt My Child Out of Sexual Health Instruction

Dear [Principal's Name] and [School Nurse/Counselor Name],

I am writing to formally request that my child, [Child's Full Name], a student in [Grade/Class], be excused from all instruction, curriculum, presentations, or materials relating to sexual health, human sexuality, or reproductive education, including any "inclusive" or "comprehensive" sex education content.

This request is made in accordance with New Mexico Administrative Code 6.12.2, which permits parental discretion in matters concerning sexual education and aligns with our family's deeply held moral and religious beliefs.

Please ensure my child is not present during any such instruction and that no related material is assigned or distributed. I also request notification in advance of any instruction that might include sensitive content so we may evaluate and respond accordingly.

Sincerely,

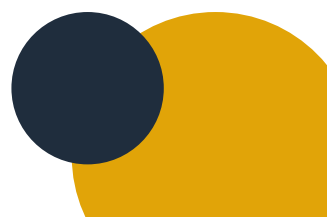
[Your Full Name]

[Your Signature]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Date]



# OPT-OUT TEMPLATE LETTERS

*Downloadable/editable templates for opting out of sexual health, pronoun usage policies, surveys, etc.*



## 2. OPT-OUT OF GENDER IDENTITY/PRONOUN POLICIES

Subject: Notice of Opt-Out: Gender Identity Discussions and Policies

Dear [Principal's Name] and [Teacher's Name],

This letter is to inform you that I do not consent to my child, [Child's Full Name], being subjected to or participating in:

- Discussions, lessons, or activities relating to gender identity, gender expression, or transgender ideology
- The use of alternative pronouns or affirming names that contradict biological sex
- Any gender support plan being created or discussed without my knowledge and consent

This request reflects our family's sincerely held religious and moral beliefs. I request written confirmation that my wishes will be honored and that no attempts will be made to conceal related information from us as parents.

Sincerely,

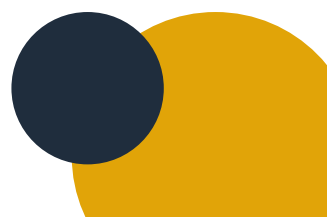
[Your Full Name]

[Your Signature]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Date]



# OPT-OUT TEMPLATE LETTERS

*Downloadable/editable templates for opting out of sexual health, pronoun usage policies, surveys, etc.*



## 3. OPT-OUT OF STUDENT SURVEYS (PERSONAL/POLITICAL/RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS)

Subject: Parental Opt-Out of Non-Academic Student Surveys

Dear [Principal's Name] and [School Counselor's Name],

Under the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA), I am asserting my right as a parent to opt my child, [Child's Full Name], out of any non-academic student surveys, assessments, or questionnaires that request or collect information related to:

- Sexual behavior or attitudes
- Mental or psychological conditions
- Political affiliations or beliefs
- Religious beliefs
- Family relationships or household income
- Gender identity or expression

Please ensure my child is not included in any current or future surveys of this nature unless I provide prior written consent.

Sincerely,

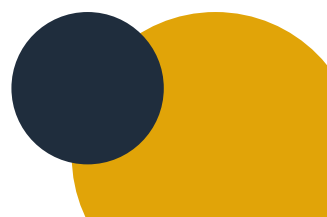
[Your Full Name]

[Your Signature]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Date]



# OPT-OUT TEMPLATE LETTERS

*Downloadable/editable templates for opting out of sexual health, pronoun usage policies, surveys, etc.*



## 4. OPT-OUT OF COUNSELING OR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES WITHOUT CONSENT

Subject: Parental Rights Notification: Mental Health Services

Dear [Principal's Name] and [School Counselor's Name],

I am writing to inform you that my child, [Child's Full Name], is not to participate in any counseling, therapy, or psychological evaluations—including those conducted by a school counselor, social worker, or outside agency—without my explicit prior written consent.

This includes all mental health screenings, group sessions, and emotional check-ins that involve disclosure of personal beliefs or private concerns.

Please confirm that our parental rights in this area will be honored.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Signature]

[Phone Number]

[Email Address]

[Date]





# FAMILY VALUES CHECKLIST

*What do you want your child to carry into the classroom—and into life?*

As parents, we have a God-given calling to raise our children in truth, love, and wisdom. The culture may try to shape their minds—but you set the foundation. This checklist will help you define the values you want reinforced—not undermined—by your child’s school environment.

Check all that apply—and use this as a reference when reviewing curriculum, talking to teachers, or attending school board meetings.



## SPIRITUAL & MORAL DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ Respect for faith and freedom of conscience
- ☐ Acknowledgment that truth exists and is not relative
- ☐ Teaching right and wrong, not just “self-expression”
- ☐ Encouragement of personal responsibility and integrity



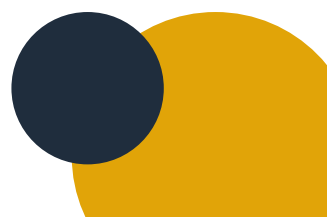
## UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN IDENTITY

- ☐ Recognition of biological sex as God-designed and unchangeable
- ☐ Respect for the uniqueness of male and female
- ☐ Rejection of ideology that confuses or contradicts God’s design
- ☐ Support for children to be comfortable in their own bodies, not pressured to question them



## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE OVER ACTIVISM

- ☐ Focus on core academics (reading, math, science, history)
- ☐ Freedom from political or ideological indoctrination
- ☐ Honest, balanced presentation of history and current events
- ☐ Encouragement of critical thinking over identity-based bias





# FAMILY VALUES CHECKLIST

*What do you want your child to carry into the classroom—and into life?*



## HEALTHY COMMUNICATION & RESPECT

- ☐ Use of respectful language in classroom materials
- ☐ Encouragement of civil discourse and listening to different views
- ☐ Zero tolerance for bullying, including faith-based bullying
- ☐ School policies that support parents, not replace them



## AGE-APPROPRIATE CONTENT

- ☐ No exposure to sexually explicit materials
- ☐ No lessons on sexual orientation or gender identity without parental input
- ☐ Upholding of childhood innocence, not rushing maturity
- ☐ Respect for parental boundaries and family teaching on sensitive topics



## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT & OVERSIGHT

- ☐ Full access to curriculum, lessons, and assignments
- ☐ Informed consent for all health, emotional, or sensitive discussions
- ☐ Protection of my right to opt my child out
- ☐ Partnership between school and home—not secrecy



**What values matter most to your family?** Use this checklist to have conversations with teachers, school staff, and fellow parents. When you know what you stand for, you'll recognize faster what doesn't belong.



**Want help evaluating your child's school or curriculum?**

Download our School Evaluation Worksheet at [www.nmfam.org/protect-our-kids](http://www.nmfam.org/protect-our-kids)





# SCHOOL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

*Is your child's school aligned with your values?*

Use this worksheet to evaluate your child's school based on classroom content, school culture, transparency, and your experiences as a parent. This tool helps you ask the right questions and record red flags—so you can take action confidently.



## SECTION 1: GENERAL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

### 1. How often are you informed about what your child is learning?

- ☐ Weekly/Regularly
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Never

### 2. Does the school make curriculum and materials accessible for parent review?

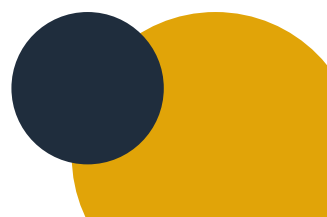
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Only when asked
- ☐ No

### 3. Is there visible political or ideological messaging (flags, posters, books)?

- ☐ No
- ☐ A little
- ☐ A lot

### 4. Are traditional values (family, respect, personal responsibility) supported?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ No







# SCHOOL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

*Is your child's school aligned with your values?*



## SECTION 2: CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

### 5. Have you reviewed lesson plans or assignments related to:

- Sexual health or “inclusive sex ed”?
- Gender identity or “pronoun” usage?
- Race or identity-based activism?

- ☐ Yes, I've reviewed and had concerns
- ☐ Yes, I've reviewed and had no concerns
- ☐ No, I haven't reviewed these
- ☐ I didn't know this was being taught

### 6. Are materials age-appropriate and free of graphic or mature content?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ No

### 7. Are alternate assignments available for objectionable content?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Not offered unless requested
- ☐ No



## SECTION 3: PARENTAL RIGHTS & TRANSPARENCY

### 8. Have you ever been denied access to your child's records or support plans?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes



# SCHOOL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

*Is your child's school aligned with your values?*

**9. Does the school notify you before discussing sensitive topics (gender, sexuality, mental health)?**

- ☐ Always
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Rarely/Never

**10. Are you confident the school would inform you if your child changed their name, pronouns, or identity at school?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Unsure
- ☐ No



## SECTION 4: CULTURE & STUDENT WELL-BEING

**11. Are faith-based students treated with respect and allowed to express their beliefs?**

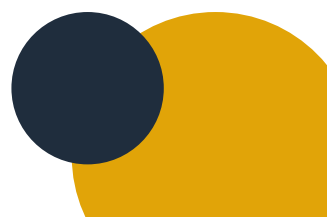
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ No

**12. Is there bullying or pressure around identity politics or conformity?**

- ☐ Not observed
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Widespread

**13. Are academic standards prioritized over ideological agendas?**

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ No





# SCHOOL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

*Is your child's school aligned with your values?*



## REFLECTION & ACTION PLAN

What concerns do you have about your child's school?

What values or issues do you need to raise with school staff?

Next steps I will take:

- ☐ Submit an opt-out letter
- ☐ Request a meeting with a teacher or principal
- ☐ Attend the next school board meeting
- ☐ Join or start a Protect Our Kids Parent Circle
- ☐ Seek alternative education options



**Download additional resources or get support at:**



**New Mexico Family Action Foundation | Protect Our Kids**



# SCHOOL BOARD ENGAGEMENT TALKING POINTS

*Use these prompts to build your confidence and communicate clearly at public meetings.*

 *Tip: Always be respectful, stay within the time limit, and speak as a parent—not a partisan.*



## GENERAL TALKING POINTS

- "I'm here today not just as a concerned citizen—but as a parent of a student in this district."
- "Parents are not obstacles—we are partners in education."
- "Transparency is not a threat; it is the foundation of trust between schools and families."
- "Curriculum should educate, not indoctrinate. Our children deserve age-appropriate, morally sound content."
- "It's unacceptable that schools are allowed to hide gender identity changes from parents. We have a right to know and be involved."
- "We're not here to attack anyone—we're here to protect our kids and preserve our rights as parents."



## TOPICAL TALKING POINTS BY CONCERN

### ◆ Sex Education / CSE

- *"I am concerned about sexually explicit content being taught to children under the label of 'comprehensive sex ed.' Parents must be informed and given the option to opt out."*

### ◆ Gender Identity Policies

- *"Schools should never create 'gender support plans' behind a parent's back. That's not support—it's secrecy."*

### ◆ Curriculum Transparency

- *"We are asking for full access to classroom materials, assignments, and library books so we can ensure they align with the values we teach at home."*

### ◆ Parental Rights & Communication

- *"You don't need a policy that hides information from parents—you need a partnership that honors them."*

### ◆ Faith & Free Speech

- *"Our children should never be shamed or silenced for expressing their faith or standing by their family values."*



## SAMPLE SCHOOL BOARD COMMENT SCRIPT (2 MINUTES MAX)

*You can personalize this based on your concerns. Feel free to read this directly or use it as a guide.*

**Good evening, members of the board,**

My name is [Your Name], and I'm a parent of a [Grade] student in [School Name or District]. I'm here tonight because I believe parents are not just stakeholders—we are the primary educators and protectors of our children.

I'm deeply concerned about the direction of our school system—particularly when it comes to [insert concern—examples: gender ideology being promoted, sexually explicit material in the curriculum, or the lack of transparency with families].

Our family believes that education should be built on truth, not trend—and that includes respecting the role of parents in guiding our children's development, especially on sensitive issues like identity, morality, and mental health.

We have a right to know what our children are learning. We have a right to opt out of content that contradicts our values. And we certainly have a right to be informed if our child is struggling or changing how they identify at school.

I'm asking this board to prioritize transparency, age-appropriate curriculum, and parent partnership—not policies that push us out of the conversation.

Thank you for your time—and for remembering that parents are not the problem. We are part of the solution.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

