ASAN

AUTISTIC SELF ADVOCACY NETWORK

Easy Read Edition

Autism Research and the IACC:
Your Voice Matters!

Part 9: What should I write in a public comment?

Words to Know in Part 9

Public comments

Ideas people send to the government. People tell the government what they think the government should do.

Research

A way that people learn new things about the world. Research happens when people try to answer questions or solve problems.

Researchers

People who do research as their job.

The IACC

A group of people chosen by the government. They help decide what autism research the government will pay for. IACC stands for "Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee".

What should I write in a public comment?

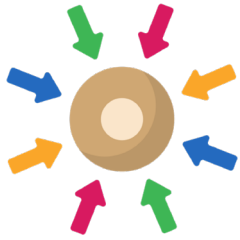Here are some tips for writing your comment:

- Think about the most important thing you want the IACC to know.

What kind of questions about autism do you think researchers should study?

What problems do autistic people have that research should try to solve?

- Try to be as specific as possible.

For example, don't say "The IACC should tell the government to study sleep"

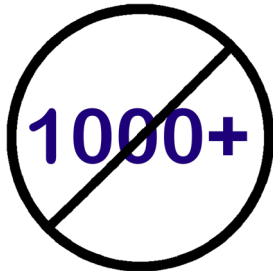Instead, say "Lots of autistic people have trouble sleeping.

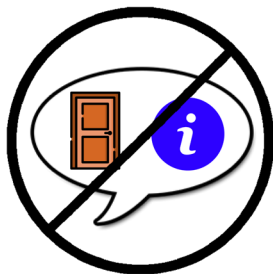I think more research should get done on sleep problems in autistic people.

The IACC should ask for research that helps autistic people sleep better."

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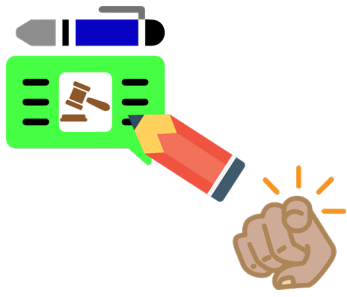- You should only write 1000 words or less for your comment.

The IACC might not read more than the first 1000 words.

- Do not put private information about your life in your comment.

Do not send pictures or videos.

- Only send in a comment you write yourself.

The IACC won't read doubles of the same comment.

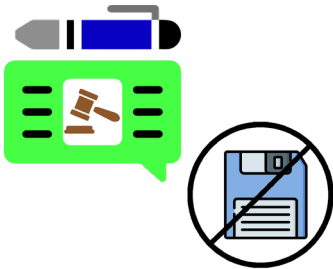- Sometimes the IACC will ask about more than one thing to comment on.

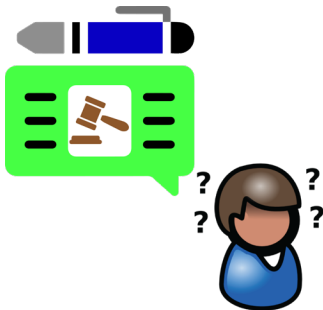You can answer the questions you want to answer.

You don't have to answer all of the questions.

- If you use the IACC web form, you have to hit "Submit" at the end of the form.

Otherwise, your comment won't be saved.

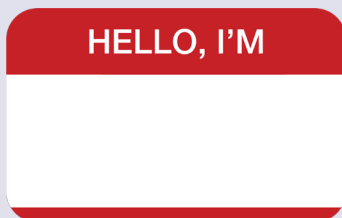Public comments to the IACC can be hard to write.
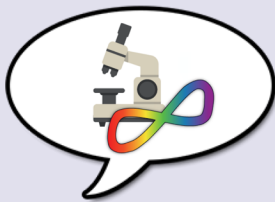
They have to get written a certain way.

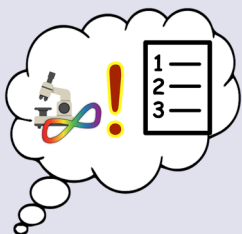Here is a guide for writing your public comment:

Dear IACC,

My name is **[full name]**.

I would like to talk to you today about autism research.

I think the IACC should tell the government to pay for autism research about **[topic]**.

I think this kind of research is important because **[reason]**.

[Here is where you can share more of your reasons.

You can talk about being autistic, or knowing autistic people.

Show how the research you're talking about would help autistic people.]
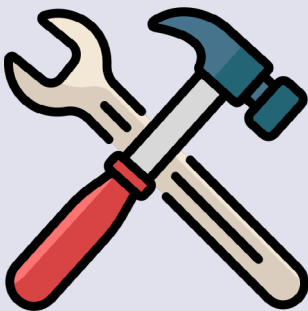
I think the IACC should listen to the voices of autistic people the most.

The research I talked about is important to autistic people.

It might answer questions we have about our lives.

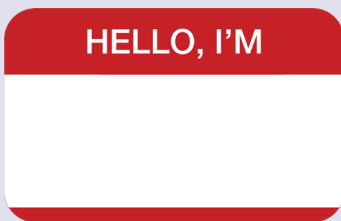It could solve problems autistic people have, so we can live the lives we want.

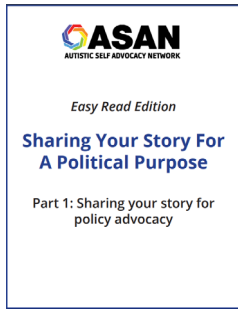Please help autistic people by asking for more research about **[topic]**.
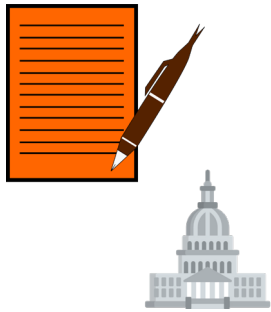
Thank you for reading my comment.

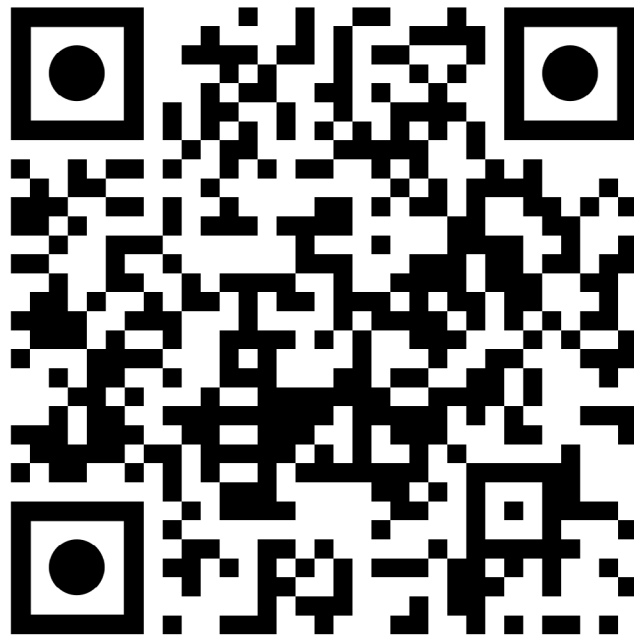Sincerely,

HELLO, I'M

[Your name]

You can also look at the [Sharing your Story](#) toolkit.

It has tips for how to write your ideas to the government.

Want to share your thoughts on this toolkit?

Take our survey!

Scan this code with your phone to go to our survey.

Or, go to

www.surveymonkey.com/r/ASANresource