



Student Government Association

\*REFLECTIONS ON FRANKFORT RALLY\*

Name Matt Vaughan

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Classes missed (no. and title) Professor's name  
HON. Music App 120-006 Walinski  
Basic Broadcast News 265-002 Likes

After a very exciting, energizing and educational experience at the Capitol Building of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, you are beginning to wrap your head around the inner workings of our state government and how it functions.

1. How do you feel that you impacted this state crisis? What difference did you participating in this rally make?
2. What was the most memorable/important part of the experience you had as a participant in this rally?
3. How/where have you acquired the knowledge and skills that are most important for you, as students, to be able to influence the workings of government and the influence the decisions made?
4. What suggestions do you have (for the university and its faculty) that will better prepare you to be effective participants in shaping and influencing political decisions?
5. What could have been done to make your day more effective or productive?

\*Each participant will be expected to complete this 'reflections' paper. A copy of it should be given to the SGA Vice President before leaving the bus when you return to campus. A copy of your paper will also be provided to each faculty member whose class you missed to participate in the rally.\*

As a lobbyist for the day I feel that I brought the message of Western's pain with the budget cuts to the legislature in the Commonwealth that can make the needed changes to increase, not decrease, funding for higher education. I think I made a difference by representing the students at WKU and citizens with a firm belief in more funding for higher education with the voting power to back it up. My most memorable experience was when I met with the Representative from Warren County. In that meeting I learned a lot about post-secondary education funding from the Congressman and I feel that I was able to get out

message across to our local representative in the Kentucky State government. I believe that I've acquired the knowledge and skills that are most important for me to be able to influence the workings of government and to influence the decisions made through my involvement with the fight against poverty. Through these efforts I have learned how to lobby effectively through national training and real-world lobbying experiences in the nation's capital. I suggest to the University and the faculty that they provide more opportunities for students to engage in the political process. Our day could have been more productive if our transportation would have been properly arranged and set up to have WKL's message heard by more members of Congress.