**2020 Census Complete Count Campaign CLASS RAP**

**Intro/Legit:** Thank you, Professor. Hello, my name is NAME and I’m a student with the NYPIRG chapter here on campus. NYPIRG is a statewide student group that fights to protect higher education funding and takes on the oil companies over climate change. You may know us from our voter registration efforts and drives to stock the on-campus food pantry.

I’m here today to talk about the upcoming census.

**Problem**: As you probably already know, the US Constitution requires the federal government to count every person living in the country. This includes everyone, regardless of age, immigration status, living situation, and wealth. And it happens every 10 years. This decade’s Census is scheduled to kick-off this March/is happening *right now*.

And while this may sound trivial, it’s not just about having an accurate count for Wikipedia – it’s about *political power*. The results of the Census determine how many members of Congress each state has, how much funding is given out by the Federal government for things like food and housing subsidies, where new schools are built, clean water infrastructure and more.

IN NYC – In the last Census in 2010, New York City lost a lot of its clout because many low-income and high immigrant communities were undercounted, particularly in Brooklyn and Queens.

OUTSIDE OF NYC – In the last Census in 2010, the poorest communities and those with high foreign-born people in the state were undercounted.

**Solution**: In this year’s Census, we need to make sure New York is counted accurately more than ever. Due to underreporting during the 2010 Census, New York lost out on billions of dollars in federal funding as well as two members of Congress. This means that aid programs were slashed, infrastructure was left crumbling, and New York had diminished political power. In 2020, we have too much to lose. We can’t let New York be near the bottom of the nation in counting its population again.

**Action**: Here’s how you can help.

* First, fill out the network card in front of you and check off the “I want to be counted” census 2020 box. We’ll keep you updated on opportunities to act.
* Second, [to be updated as campaign moves forward] fill out this commitment card to say “yes! I commit to answering the census”/we’re looking for volunteers/we’re hiring students who speak other languages/join us at our regular tables to educate your peers.
* Lastly, come to our Student Action Meeting on [date, time, location] to learn more and step up as a leader to be a part of NYPIRG’s 2020 Census Complete Count Campaign.

Pass up the network cards/commitment cards when you’re done and thanks! And thanks, professor.