

## Creating a successful petition

### 1. Do your background research.

- Using the resources suggested by your teacher as well as the library and your own research find a topic that you are passionate about in a country affected by conflict.

#### CHECKPOINT

- I have created a google doc/Evernote of my brainstorm
- I have written notes and recorded my sources of information
- I have identified a focus topic and country

### 2. Write a strong petition title.

- Create a petition title that clearly explains the goal using strong action verbs.

### 3. Craft a petition statement.

- What are you asking supporters to agree with and sign their name in support of?
- What does your petition hope to achieve?
- Who is the target recipient of your petition?
- State your objective in clear, concise language.
- Use persuasive language to highlight the urgency of your issue.
- Describe your proposed solution.
- Describe whom the petition will be delivered to and the date of delivery (if applicable).

Re-read your statement and ask yourself: Will this statement convince someone to sign?

Proofread for spelling and grammatical errors and check your facts for accuracy.

### 4. Include a photo that is illustrative of the problem that your petition addresses.

#### CHECKPOINT

- I have chosen a topic I am passionate about
- I have a strong petition title
- I have written a detailed petition statement
- I have a relevant picture about my issue

**5. Spreading the word.**

- Spend time devising a strategy for spreading awareness about the petition.
- How are you going to get people to find the petition and sign it?
- Who is your target audience?

**6. Set a goal for the number of signatures you would like to gather.**

- Set a deadline for signatures to be collected by.
- Keep the time frame short enough to create a sense of urgency and to get people to act quickly.

**CHECKPOINT**

- I have made a plan on how I am going to spread awareness
- I have a goal for the number of signatures I would like to gather

**7. Does your idea already exist?**

- Search online petitions to see if your cause already exists.

**CHECKPOINT**

- My idea already exists so I have signed another petition
- My idea does not exist so I have spoken to my teacher about taking further action
- I have written a reflection about what makes me passionate about this issue and why others should be made aware

## **Further Action**

1. Who are you going to send this petition to for making an impact?
2. Find a reliable hosting site to establish your petition on.
3. Use email and your social network outlets to **promote the petition** and to ask supporters to sign it.
4. Search for online forums and news groups related to your cause and **share news about your petition**.
5. Follow through! **Be accountable and deliver your petition**.
  - Take the time to check the credibility of the signatures and look for false names that could make your petition invalid.
  - If you have allowed signers to add comments, check them as well.
6. Deliver your petition to the recipient where possible.
7. Let your supporters know what happened!
  - Send a follow-up thank you for signing the petition, as well as any news.
  - Whether or not your petition ends up being successful at meeting its ultimate goal, it is a great way to build a support base and spread awareness.