



## Activity: Petition Change

**Suggested Levels:** D B J C S A

**Objective:** Generate a petition and gain support through signatures.

**Leader Prep:** Use the library or the internet to research examples of petitions and petition templates. Find out where in your community it is legal to ask citizens to sign a petition.

**Supplies:**

- Internet connectivity
- Computer, tablet or smart phone
- Paper
- Pens
- Clipboards
- Canvassing volunteers

**Ways to Include Supporters:**

- Include a petition as part of your canvassing efforts
  - Ask supporters to host a table or informational booth at events where people gather and can sign your petition
1. A petition is a formal request to a lawmaker or policymaker to solve the problem for which you are advocating. Petitions demonstrate to lawmakers that the change you would like to enact is supported by other people. Petitions are more valuable if all the people signing the petition are directly affected by the problem (i.e. all the students who need school supplies or all of the citizens in a city council district) or if you have even more signatures than you had expected to receive.
  2. With your leader, research examples of how petitions are written. You can use an online template from a website like [change.org](http://change.org) or [dosomething.org](http://dosomething.org) or you can create a paper petition to be shared at a farmer's market or a school dance. You can also do both of these things!
  3. Petitions should have the following essential information:
    - a. Title stating what you want or the solution you're seeking (for instance: We want all students to have school supplies)
    - b. Your elevator pitch.
    - c. Two or three key facts that explain why your cause is important.
    - d. How many signatures you need (each space to write a signature should have space to sign, space to print the person's name, their zip code or school grade or another identifying factor about them, and a space for the date)
    - e. To whom you're addressing the petition (your school board, the President of the United States, your mayor, or someone else)
    - f. Why the petition is needed – what will it help the addressee do?
  4. Once you have created your petition, you'll need to get it in front of the people that will be most invested in supporting you – anyone who is affected by the issue or wants it to change. You can do this by canvassing communities or neighborhoods, hosting a table at an event where those supporters might be gathering, put it on your website or a link on your flyer, or anywhere else where people will see it.



Daisy Good Neighbor Badge  
Brownie Meet My Customers Badge  
Junior Inside Government Badge  
Cadette Public Speaker Badge  
Senior Behind the Ballot Badge