

Petition your principal

This activity challenges students to identify ways to improve their school and gain the support of their classmates as part of understanding how petitioning works.

Main activity

Groupwork

1. Explain to students that in groups of 3 to 5 people, they should come up with an idea for a petition to the principal. Encourage them to reflect on things in their classes or around their school and what could be done to improve them.
2. Print and distribute the petition template for students to fill out. They must include a brief description of the issue and a clear request for action.



The two templates represent a first and second page of a petition, due to their numbering. Make sure students only get a first page.

Share and sign

3. Have one student from each group present their petition to the class. Prompt them to share why their group believes their issue is important and why their requested action is the best solution.
4. After all petitions are presented, display them (e.g., pin them on the wall, lay them out on a table). Ask students to sign their name to any petitions which they think are important to show their support



If you want students to be more discerning, ask students to sign up to (but no more than) three petitions only.

Reflection

5. As a class, look at which petitions received the most support. Reflect on why some received more support than others using these questions:
 - What did students think of the issues and solutions presented?
 - Were there any other issues not presented that they think are important?
 - If they were to choose to present only one to the principal, which one would it be and why?

Extension activities

Option 1: Take one petition further

If students are particularly passionate about one petition and its request is reasonable, support the class to take that petition further in one of two ways:

- If appropriate, create more petition sheets and have students seek signatures from other students during a lunch break. Collate those sheets and organise to have students present them to the principal or a member of the school leadership team.
- Organise for students to present their petition to the student representative council for consideration.

Option 2: Start an Assembly petition

If students are particularly passionate about one petition, its request is reasonable, and it falls under the remit of the ACT Government, support the class to start an Assembly petition.

Examples of student-led Assembly petitions include:

- [Petition for a new gym at Lyneham High School](#) 
- [Petition for a pedestrian crossing at Mawson Primary](#) 
- [Petition for a dedicated school bus for Hawker College](#) , and
- [Petition for improved air conditioning at Canberra High School](#) .

You can find more information about starting a petition at epetitions.parliament.act.gov.au .

PETITION

To the Principal and School Leadership Team

The following students draw your attention to this issue:

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We therefore request that you take the following action/s:

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No.	Name	Class	Signature
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PETITION

To the Principal and School Leadership Team

The following students draw your attention to this issue:

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We therefore request that you take the following action/s:

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No.	Name	Class	Signature
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