

Petitioning uses your collective voice as leverage for leaders to address issues of concern. It is an important way for citizens to communicate with their government. Your representatives work for you and it is their job to represent your interests. But they will not know how you want them to act on issues unless you express your opinion.

Petitioning is a process that starts with a formal letter identifying a position on an issue using evidence from credible sources and explanations on the effects on society. To begin this process, you need to complete the following tasks:

1. Identify the issue you want to address.
2. Ensure that you have sound research by finding 5 statistical figures (involving numbers) and your source of information that point to the issue.
 - a. At least 3 of your findings have to be from research sites.
3. Make direct connections to how the issue impacts people.
 - a. Find reports that describe how 3 people were directly affected by this issue and provide a 3-sentence summary for each person that explains how they were impacted.
 - i. Be sure to include your source of information.
4. Explain in at least 3 sentences the position you think should be taken on the issue and describe in at least 3 sentences how this position would address the issue.
5. Research and explain the counter-point to your position in at least 3 sentences and describe in at least 3 sentences why your position is better for addressing the issue by identifying drawbacks in the opposing viewpoint.
6. Identify proposed legislation that supports your position and provide the overview.
 - a. Go to govtrack.us/congress/bills/#find
 - i. Type your issue or topic into the search field and click “Search” or use the topics in the right column to narrow your search.
 - ii. Find a piece of legislation that you want your elected representative to take action on and click on it.
 - iii. Write down the Overview the describes the proposed legislation.
7. Explain how you want your elected official to vote on the proposed legislation and describe why in at least 3 sentences.

1. Issue: _____

2. Sound Research:

Statistical Figures (What are the numbers that point to a problem?)	Source

3. Direct Connections:

How are people impacted by this issue?	Source

4. Your Position:

What is your position on this issue?	How does this position address this issue?

5. Counter-Point:

What is the counter-point to your position?	What are the drawbacks for this counter-point?

6. Proposed Legislation:

Title of proposed legislation	Overview of legislation

7. Elected Official Vote:

Vote for or against	Why should your elected representative vote for or against the proposed legislation?