**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

1. **Write a strong petition title.**
   * Create a petition title that clearly explains the goal using strong action verbs.
2. **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.

1. **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

1. **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?
2. **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

1. **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.

1. Deliver your petition to the recipient where possible.
2. 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.