



Government Virtual Learning

**12th grade Government
Petitioning the Government**

May 8, 2020



Lesson: #31 May 8, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

Learning Target: I can demonstrate how to petition my government for a redress of grievances

Warm Up

#1 Have you ever started or signed a petition?
Explain in 1-2 sentences.



#2 What was the purpose of establishing or signing the petition? Why was it created?

Answers will vary and are not limited to the following: To change something, to get rid of a rule (Yondr petition), to make something better (food at school), to bring attention to a cause

Lesson Activity

The 1st amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees your right to petition the government for a redress of grievances. The right to petition government is the right to make a complaint to, or seek the assistance of, one's government, without fear of punishment or reprisals.

Contemporary Use for Petitioning

“Petitioning” has come to signify any nonviolent, legal means of encouraging or disapproving government action, whether directed to the judicial, executive or legislative branch. Lobbying, letter-writing, e-mail campaigns, testifying before tribunals, filing lawsuits, supporting referenda, collecting signatures for ballot initiatives, peaceful protests and picketing: all public articulation of issues, complaints and interests designed to spur government action qualifies under the petition clause, even if the activities partake of other First Amendment freedoms.

Lesson Activity

What do you care about? Visit this site [HERE](#) and look at the popular issues facing our nation today. Choose one issue you feel strongly about. It does not have to be from this site but it has useful info



Complete the following questions about your topic before you begin:

1. Topic
2. What you would like to see changed?
3. Is this a local, state or federal issue?
4. Who is the best person to contact about your issue?
5. Are there any groups that support or oppose your issue? Who?
- 6.

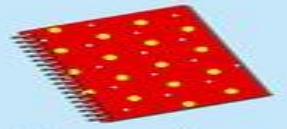
Visit this
site [HERE](#)
if you didn't
lesson #30
to find your
reps

Lesson Activity

How to get your voice heard.....

1. Letters over email- *letters get more attention*
2. Think locally- *start with your community*
3. Keep it Smart and Simple- *don't write an essay and be sure to proofread your work*
4. Be courteous and respectful- *but don't be too kind*
5. Be sure to include your contact info- *address and email are important!*

Practice



Draft a letter to your local representative requesting them to change what it is you care about. How can they help you? Create a new law? Make sure to follow the instructions given in the link [HERE](#)

Reflection

What else can we do to change things? Think about the ways in which people in history have enacted change. Was writing a letter the best way for you to make a difference?

Reflect on 2 other ways you could have brought your topic to the government to be heard.

Reflection check

Protest

Town Hall

Email

Call

Social Media

Newspaper

TV News

+ So many more

Helpful Links

<https://www.mo.gov/>

<https://www.senate.gov/>

<https://www.house.gov/>

<https://www.ci.independence.mo.us/>