Name: _____ Date: _____

Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Circle group

Say cars race past the corner near your school. Kids have a hard time crossing. You think the street needs a crosswalk. How can people ask their town to act? One tool is a petition.

A petition is a written request. Many people sign it. It shows leaders that the problem is not just one person's idea. Here are the steps.

First, say exactly what you want. "Please add a marked crosswalk at Elm Street and Pine Road" is clearer than "Make the street safer." Put that sentence at the top of every page.

Second, collect names. Each person writes a name and often an address. Then officials can see that the signers care about the place. Some towns have rules about who may sign. Be polite and give people time to read.

Third, bring the petition to the right group. That might be the town council or a traffic board. Many councils hear from residents at meetings.

Then the leaders may vote, study the street, or say no for now. A petition does not force an answer. But it shows that neighbors are paying attention.

Questions

1. What is a petition?

_____

_____

2. What goes at the top of every page?

_____

_____

3. Why do signers often write an address?

_____

_____

4. Who might get the finished petition?

_____

_____

5. Why is a clear request better than 'Make the street safer'?

_____

_____

6. Does a petition force leaders to say yes? How do you know?

_____

_____

Words to know

petition: a written request that many people sign
crosswalk: a marked place where people cross a street
officials: people who hold jobs in the government
residents: people who live in a place

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Triangle group

Suppose cars race past the corner near your school, and kids have trouble crossing. You think the street needs a crosswalk. How can ordinary people ask their town to act? One tool is a petition.

A petition is a written request signed by many people. It shows leaders that the problem is not just one person's idea. Here are the usual steps.

First, say exactly what you are asking for. "Please add a marked crosswalk at Elm Street and Pine Road" is clearer than "Make the street safer." Put that sentence at the top of every page.

Second, collect signatures. Each person writes his or her name, and often an address, so officials can see that the signers care about the place. Some towns have rules about who may sign, such as people who live nearby. Be polite and give people time to read.

Third, bring the petition to the right group, such as the town council or a traffic board. Many councils set aside time at meetings to hear from residents.

After that, the leaders may vote, study the street, or say no for now. A petition does not force an answer. But it shows that neighbors are paying attention, and leaders often listen to that.

Questions

1. What is a petition?

_____

_____

2. What should be put at the top of every page of the petition?

_____

_____

3. Why do signers often write an address?

_____

_____

4. Who might receive the finished petition?

_____

_____

5. Why is a clear request better than 'Make the street safer'?

_____

_____

6. Does a petition force leaders to give a yes? How do you know?

_____

_____

Words to know

petition: a written request that many people sign
signatures: people's names written in their own handwriting
crosswalk: a marked place where people cross a street
officials: people who hold jobs in the government
residents: people who live in a place

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Square group

Suppose cars regularly speed past the corner near your school, and children struggle to cross the street safely. You are convinced that the street needs a crosswalk. How can ordinary people persuade their town to take action? One useful tool is a petition.

A petition is a written request that is signed by many people. It demonstrates to leaders that the problem is not merely one person's opinion. The process usually follows a few steps.

First, state exactly what you are asking for. "Please add a marked crosswalk at Elm Street and Pine Road" is far clearer than "Make the street safer." Put that sentence at the top of every page so that no one signs without understanding the request.

Second, gather signatures. Each person writes his or her name, and often an address, so that officials can see that the signers care about the place. Some towns have rules about who is allowed to sign, such as people who live nearby. Be courteous and allow people plenty of time to read.

Third, deliver the petition to the appropriate group, such as the town council or a traffic board. Many councils set aside time at their meetings to hear from residents.

After that, the leaders may vote on the request, study the street, or decline for the time being. A petition cannot force a particular answer. Even so, it shows that neighbors are paying attention, and leaders often respond to that.

Questions

1. What is a petition?

_____

_____

2. What should appear at the top of every page of the petition, and why?

_____

_____

3. Why do signers often add an address next to their names?

_____

_____

4. Which groups might receive a finished petition?

_____

_____

5. Why is a specific request more useful than a general one such as 'Make the street safer'?

_____

_____

6. Does a petition guarantee that leaders will agree? What in the passage shows this?

_____

_____

Words to know

petition: a written request that many people sign
signatures: people's names written in their own handwriting
crosswalk: a marked place where people cross a street
officials: people who hold jobs in the government
residents: people who live in a place

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Easier · 186 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. A written request that many people sign.
2. A clear sentence about exactly what you want.
3. So officials can see that they care about the place.
4. The town council or a traffic board.
5. It tells leaders exactly what to fix.
6. No. The passage says leaders may vote, study the street or say no.

Triangle: Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

This passage · 207 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 4.8

1. A written request signed by many people.
2. A clear sentence saying exactly what is being asked for.
3. So officials can see that they care about the place.
4. The town council or a traffic board.
5. It tells leaders exactly what to fix.
6. No. The passage says leaders may vote, study the street or say no.

Square: Names on a Petition for a Crosswalk

Harder · 241 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.9

1. A written request that is signed by many people.
2. A clear sentence stating the request, so no one signs without understanding it.
3. So officials can see that the signers care about the place.
4. The town council or a traffic board.
5. It tells leaders exactly what to fix.
6. No. Leaders may vote, study the street or decline for the time being.