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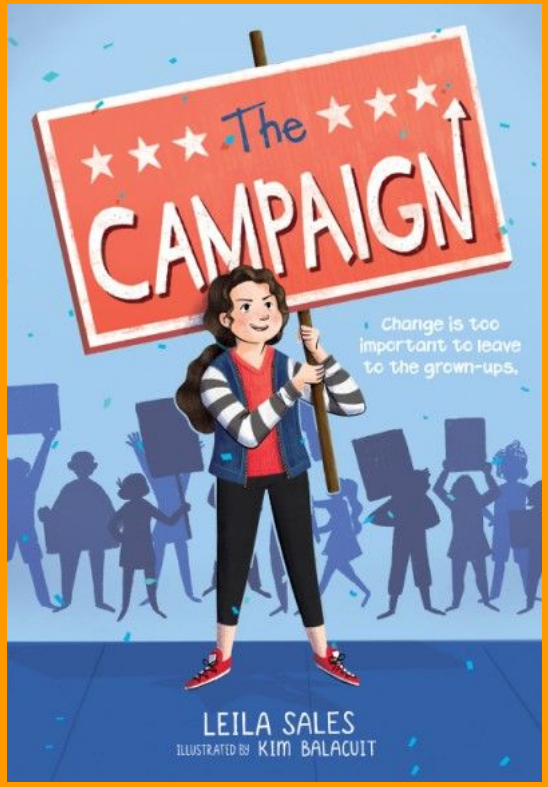
Former teacher/ Now I work at
National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo)
You can write a novel, too!
ywp.nanowrimo.org

Campaign for Change



Young People Can Make Change Happen!

STRIKE!

- refuse to do something in order to draw attention to an important cause and convince others to listen

MARCH!

- a large group of people walk together in the streets, holding signs and chanting

PETITION!

- A written request to do something, signed by everyone who agrees and sent to the person in charge of things

  Example:

  - You could write a letter explaining why your class should not receive homework on the weekend, get everyone in your class to sign it, and then send it to your teacher. The more convincing your argument is, the more people will sign it, and the more likely your teacher is to listen!

3rd Graders Petition for the Black-Crowned Night Heron

Their Petition to the Oakland City Council:

Facts! →

Did you know Black Crowned Night Herons have the largest rookery in the entire SF Bay Area, right here in Oakland? These fantastic herons have a unique style and they depend on Lake Merritt --the oldest state funded wildlife refuge in the US. They also depend on clean water in the Bay and in our urban watershed. The Black-Crowned Night Herons love Oakland just as much as we do and they need our help.

Specific request! →

Will you please sign our petition and help us get the Black-Crowned Night Herons the recognition they deserve? **Help us make them the Official Bird of the City of Oakland.**

YOU Can Write a Petition!
Here are the 5 steps:

1. Make a list of issues you care about, then pick one.

These can be things that you think are unfair, that make you mad or frustrated, or, on the opposite side, things you really love and want to protect. You can think of things at school, in your neighborhood, in your city, or even the whole country.

My example:

- Boys got picked to help at recess.
- The school didn't have vegetarian lunches.
- My town didn't compost any food products, and instead everything ended up in the trash.
- Not everyone can afford reliable internet at home. ← ***This one!***

2. What would you like to change about your issue? Who could you ask to do that? Write your request to them in a sentence!

Try to be specific, both with your request and the person you write the letter to. Then they're more likely to listen!

Example: I want all of Oakland to have free access to the internet. I think I could ask the mayor of Oakland to work out a deal with internet companies, since she's in charge of the city.

My request sentence: **The mayor of Oakland should make a deal with internet companies to provide free internet to Oakland citizens, especially kids in school.**

3. Make a list of facts that support your argument. Learn more about it if you need to!

- Everyone in Oakland is attending school from home.
- Kids need the internet to go to school and do their work.
- Not every family has the money to pay for internet.
    - Roughly 17,000 Oakland students don't have computers or WiFi

That's not fair!

4. Write your petition. Include your specific request sentence and the facts that support it.

Facts!

As you probably know, every student in Oakland is working from home right now. They have to attend classes online and then use the computer and internet to complete their work. But did you also know that around 17,000 Oakland students don't have access to computers or WiFi in their homes? That's not fair! They're not being given the same education as richer students who have quick internet and multiple devices in their homes.

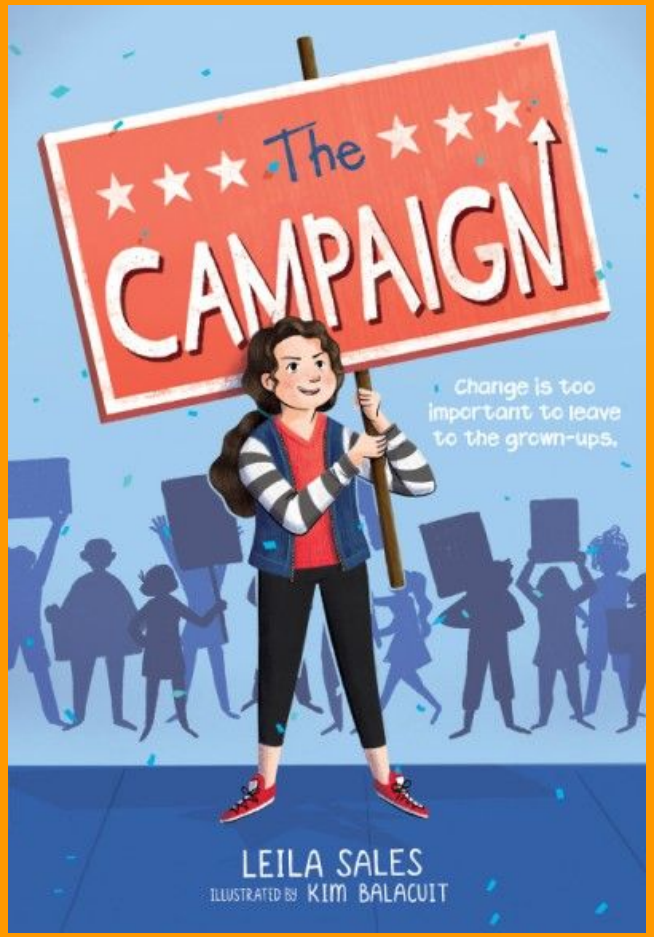
Specific request!

Please sign my petition asking the mayor to work with internet companies to make sure every home in Oakland has access to free internet. Every student deserves an equal education!

5. Get signatures, then send it to the person in charge!

You can do this with a physical letter, or you can use a digital website like **change.org**. Ask for an adult's help to get set up!

YOU Can Write a Petition of Your Own!

1. Make a list of issues you care about, then pick one.
2. What would you like to change about your issue? Who could you ask to do that? Write your request to them in a sentence!
3. Make a list of facts that support your argument. Learn more about it if you need to!
4. Write your petition. Include your specific request sentence and the facts that support it. Remember to say “Please sign my petition!”
5. Get signatures from as many people as possible, then send your petition to the person in charge to read. You can do this with a physical letter or you can use a digital website like change.org. Ask for an adult’s help to get set up!

YOU Can Make Change!