Oakland's Dropout Rates | Annotation, Petitions Anchor 3

	Employs a Public Voice	**Advocates Civic Engagement**	**Argues a Position Based on Reasoning & Evidence**	**Employs a Structure**
Title: A Petition To Educate the Community About Oaklands Dropout Rates **Form:** Petition **Media:** Text **URL:**	**Score 3** **The writing:** Employs a suitable rhetorical tone and style given the multiple audiences of a petition -- the students who the petition's authors want to sign, as well as the superintendent who has the power to make change. The repetition of *"we will demand"* is satisfactory for convincing students to sign the petition, although it has the potential to be somewhat ineffective for undermining the desired response from the superintendent. Satisfactorily establishes credibility by providing background information on the state of high school dropouts in Oakland over time and compared to other districts in CA. Credibility is also satisfactorily supported through acknowledging that counselors can't fix all problems (*"...will then do the most they can with their given power."*) Although there are some minor editing issues (e.g., *"them dropping out"*), these are not sufficient to lower the score to a 2.	**Score 3** **The writing:** Satisfactorily raises awareness of this issue and highlights its significance by citing information about rising dropout rates for OUSD students, and their own research identifying the reasons students might drop out. *"Through research and surveys we have found that most prominent reasons why students have been dropping out of high school is because of poverty either within their family or neighborhoods, violence, and drugs."* The brief statements designed to raise awareness and offer a solution are appropriate for a petition, which is a genre that prizes brevity. Satisfactorily articulates why the proposed solution of increasing the numbers counselors represents a reasonable solution to the dropout problem without asking the superintendent to take on the root causes mentioned, such as poverty and violence in the community. Hiring more counselors to pay attention to students at risk of dropping out makes logical sense, given the audience, as a means to address the issue.	**Score 3** **The writing:** Satisfactorily and appropriately applies the problem-solution framework of most petitions In contextualizing the problem and their demand for additional counselors the students, building on information learned from a survey they administered, conclude, *"Students have been dropping out of high school for all different kinds of reasons."* Following this articulation of the problem the students, explain why their solution might be effective. This explanation is built on and understanding of the role counselors can play in supporting students in danger of dropping out, and an understanding of the value of education in today's world. Does not raise potential objections on the part of the superintendent, but addressing and articulating alternative views is not always necessary in a petition demanding action on a specific issue.	**Score 3** **The writing:** Presents a problem-solution organization that satisfactorily develops the central argument of hiring additional counselors to begin to develop the dropout issue. Includes a clear opening (*e.g., "The issue we are are facing…"*) but lacks closure. The last sentence is a description of what a counselor might do, without repeating a call to action for the superintendent. Given the general clarity of the structure, the demands of the petition genre, and the inclusion of *"Sign here if you support our petition"*, this ending sentence is not enough to lower the score to a 2. Uses a bolded sentence (*"We are demanding to have another Counselor at every Oakland school to focus on kids that are about to drop out."*) to satisfactorily link the two major sections of the text and repetition in the second paragraph further supports linkage and develop the position.