

Investigation Worksheet

Follow the steps on this worksheet to conduct an investigation on:

1. A topic or issue you care about
2. The parliamentary committee best-placed to address your issue
3. The member of parliament you think will be most likely to champion this issue for you

With the goal of:

- Drafting a letter to one or many MPs
AND/OR
- Drafting a petition to submit to one or many MPs



Resources for this activity

Scan the QR code or visit www.parlimeter.org.za/workshop-resources

Group members:

Step 1: What's our issue

Identify an issue that relates to the work of parliament (not a local or provincial issue), write down what it is and what steps you would like to see taken to achieve an outcome that you would be happy with.

[illegible]

Step 2: Who has the power?

Use the resources linked to above to investigate the committees and MPs who are responsible for taking action on your issue. Also see if you can identify your constituent MP (the MP responsible for the area in which you live). You might also want to identify the members of the committee that represent the party you support.

[illegible]

Step 3: Who is our champion?

Investigate the Committee Members, as well as your constituent MPs (if available) and look into the following information about them:

- How long have they been an MP (measure of experience)
- What is their attendance of the committee like
- See if you can find how vocal they are in committee meetings (PMG)
- How often do they send questions to ministers
- Do the questions they ask resonate with you
- How often do they receive questions from the public, and what type of questions?

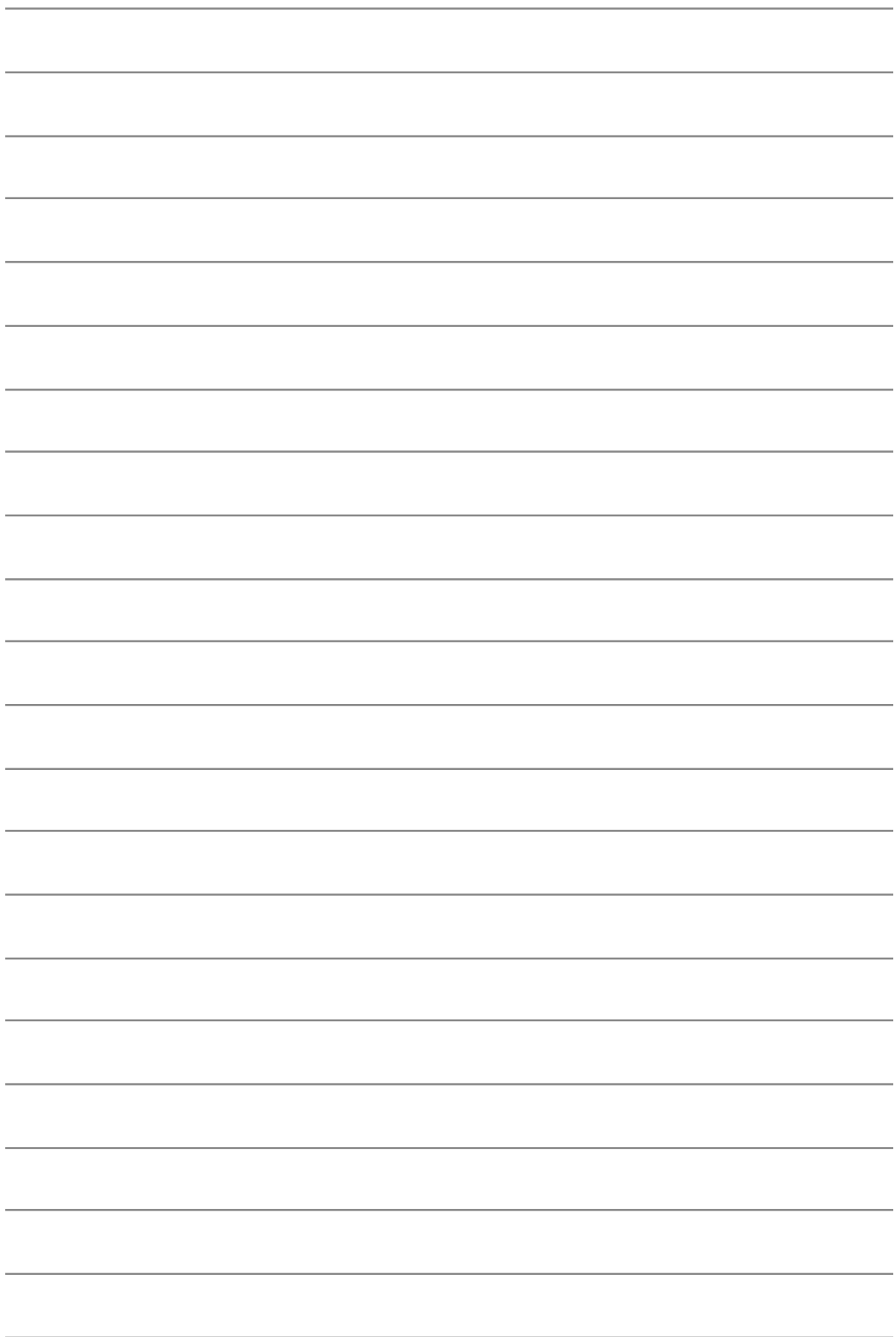
Use all this information to narrow down your list of MPs you think would be good candidates to receive your message or petition and most likely to respond to you, and potentially carry your issue further.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Step 4: Make your voice heard

Knowing what you know about the members you have investigated and after reading other messages to MPs/ministers and petitions on PMG and PA, craft a message or petition that you feel effectively communicates your issue as well as the change you would like to see.

[illegible]



Step 5: Find a partner

Your petition might carry more weight if you seek the support of a CSO group to submit it on your behalf. Many of the petitions currently before parliament have been submitted in partnership with various CSO groups. Can you identify a group to contact that may put their name behind your petition