

### STEP 1: IDENTIFY YOUR ISSUE

Brainstorm at least three issues that you think are affecting your school or community. Think about things that might upset you or your friends and that you wish were different and where you would like to make a positive change. Then answer the questions for each issue to figure out how important it is.

Question	Issue 1	Issue 2	Issue 3
Does this issue affect a lot of people? How many?			
How does this issue affect the community?			
Are people's rights being affected? How?			
Do other people think this is an issue? Who? Why?			
How long has this been an issue?			

Which issue will you focus on and why?

## STEP 2: GATHER YOUR EVIDENCE

To help you come up with solutions to your issue you need to try to understand your issue in as much detail as possible. Answer the following questions and if you're not sure about the answer do some further research online or by asking friends and family what they think!

What is the issue you've chosen to work on? Describe it in a short and clear sentence.

What is happening? (Describe the issue)

Who is being affected?

Why do you think this issue is happening?

Why do you care about this issue?

### STEP 3: CREATE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Now is the time to figure out what you can do to try and make a change! Use the following questions to help you imagine what could be done.

What needs to change to improve the situation?	What are your ideas for making this change?	Who could you ask to help you solve this issue?	What would you say to them to convince them this is important?

#### STEP 4: SELECT A STRATEGY TO MAKE A CHANGE

Read the strategies on pages 30–32 of the *Student-Led Civics & Citizenship Education: Levels 7 & 8* resource. Which strategy on pages 30–32 do you think may be most effective? Why?

Use the following table to help you decide the strategy that can help you achieve positive change, or draw up your own table.

Strategy	Describe how the strategy could be used for your issue	List the positives of the strategy	List the negatives of the strategy	List possible outcomes of the strategy	Rank the effectiveness of each strategy from 1 to 10 (1 being least effective and 10 being most effective)	Explain reasons for your choice of strategy (or strategies)
Campaigning or advocacy						
Community organising						
Legal action						
Lobbying						

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Philanthropy (donating)						
Volunteering						
Voting						
Other						

#### STEP 5: CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

You have now identified your issue, gathered your evidence, created possible solutions and selected your strategy. It is time to create an action plan.

Creating an action plan helps you prepare for any challenges and increases the possibility of success.

##### Things to consider:

- Identify and describe the steps required to achieve the change.
- Decide how you are going to use your selected strategies.
- Identify any activities or tasks that may need to be planned.
- Identify any extra help and resources that you might need.
- Allocate tasks to your group members.
- Make a timeline that includes activities, tasks and meetings to help you achieve your action.
- Discuss and track progress. Make refinements to the plan if required.

#### STEP 6: PUT IT INTO ACTION

Take your top three solutions and research to the people who have the power to make these changes. These people could be within your school (your principal, school council or teachers) or they could be in your community (your local council, local member of parliament or local businesses that could help).

It's good to present more than one idea to the people who have the power so there are opportunities for discussion.

For help with action planning, use the ALTER resources on VicSRC's [Student Voice Hub](#).