

Commitment to Community Progress

Community Service Project

This project guide will develop your skills.

Most importantly, it will help to improve your community.

In this project you will:

- Identify community needs

- Work as a team to plan a project that meets a community need.

- Get commitments to progress from community members.

- Bring about real progress for your community.

This project has seven steps:

1. Choosing the improvement area.

What is an important way in which a class, school, or the whole community could make progress?

2. Research on the situation

How can we get information about it?

What are people's views on how to bring about this kind of progress?

3. Making Choices

What choices do we think should be made?

What changes will happen if those choices are made?

4. Organizing the Plan

What action should we take?

5. The Communications Connection

How can we most effectively communicate our choice?

6. Make Progress

Organizing for progress.

7. Report Progress

Writing for the community.

STEP 1. CHOOSING THE IMPROVEMENT AREA

Here are the starting points to choose your focus:

A. What are some kinds of improvement that students care about?

example of community improvement areas:

- getting more block clubs organized
- getting more people to register to vote
- getting people to recycle and to re-use materials
- cleaning an area
- creating a mural to increase community pride

STEP 2. RESEARCH ON THE SITUATION

How can we get information about what the people who are involved recommend for making progress?

CONDUCT INTERVIEWS AND SURVEYS

You can use the interview guide as a discussion outline to organize a survey based on recommendations from the students and interviews with members of the school community.

Make a list of questions to ask people in your school and/or in the community about community problems and improvements. The questions can be very easy to answer-- "yes" or "no" questions. Or they can be thought questions, such as asking how to solve the problem.

DIVERSITY

Get a diversity of opinions. Remember that if you just interview one kind of person, such as students, you will have a different kind of survey than if you ask different kinds of people.

TAKE SURVEYS

In addition to note-taking, students can use the following framework to collect and graph information about community priorities. Six questions are listed already. The format is set up in rectangles so that you can cut up the survey forms after they are collected and sort into categories.

Survey: Community Priorities

1. What is the most important part of our community?	2. Why do you live in our community?
3. What is the most serious problem our community has?	4. What is the best way to solve that problem?
5. Would you support our class if we tried to bring about that solution?	6. How could we get more people to help solve this problem?
7.	8.
9.	10.

STEP 3: MAKING CHOICES

1. Summarize the results of your surveys and interviews or discussions. (Make bar graphs or tables to show the results.)
2. Identify a project you think is:
 - > a priority
 - > practical

STEP 4: ORGANIZING THE PLAN

Use the following outline to make your plan.

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Briefly describe the project you plan to accomplish.

2. SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

3. PROJECT OUTCOMES

What will you have established through this project--what changes will you accomplish?

4. PARTICIPANTS

The following individuals will work on this project:

Name	Position	Project Responsibilities

5. PROJECT PARTNERS

What members of the community will work with you on the project?

6. MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

Kind of Material	Who will provide it?

7. CONTINUING COMMITMENTS

What will your school and community do to maintain and build on the project?