

WHAT ELSE IS BEING DONE? RESEARCHING PROJECTS

Grade Level: All

Time: Two 45-minute sessions

WHAT IS IT?

Students research what projects have been or are being tried by other youth groups or organizations.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

By looking at what others have done, students can discover potential options for influencing their issue, including identifying project ideas, possible problems and strategies.

MATERIALS: Internet access, information on previous projects from PA website or other Youth Activism sites, Project Proposal form.

ACTIVITIES/STEPS:

- 1) Students research youth projects stories on websites from the Web Resources sheet that show groups overcoming community problems through public work.
- 2) Students evaluate the projects for:
 - Similarities to their own issue and potential projects.
 - Materials and resources that the other group used.
 - Obstacles and setbacks that the group faced.
 - Things that worked and suggestions for success.
 - Potential contacts for influencing issue policies.
- 3) Students brainstorm and develop a list of projects they would like to work on and present them to the team.
- 4) Teams discuss project ideas and vote on the most promising and feasible one.
- 5) Teams complete project proposal and begin further research.

EVALUATION:

- Students identify and critique problems from past project stories and list ways that they can avoid making the same mistakes.
- In small groups, students analyze and discuss project stories, looking for strategies that will help them achieve their own goals.
- Teams develop project proposals, suggesting methods that would work well for achieving their goals.

Source: John Wright