

# GETTING INVOLVED AND HAVING YOUR SAY

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## How can we make a difference?

Encourage your students to be active citizens and lead the way for change.



- 1 As a class, brainstorm issues in your school and local community that affect students or the community. Such as:
  - environmental issues (too much rubbish, polluted creek)
  - safety issues (kids riding without helmets, dangerous local roads or crossings)
  - equality issues (dress codes, privileges for older students)
  - health issues (canteen stocking unhealthy food, students spending too much time playing on devices).
- 2 Together select one issue that is important to students; for example, kids riding to school without helmets or a polluted creek in the local area.
- 3 Ask students to research the issue. This might include surveying relevant school or community members, doing a statistical analysis of the issue (such as counting the number of students wearing and not wearing helmets in 1 school week).
- 4 As a class, make a list of people or organisations that the class could contact to help fix an identified problem or have a positive influence in this area; for example, the local council, state parliament representatives or federal representatives.
- 5 Brainstorm ways the class could get involved to help fix an identified problem or have a positive influence in this area; for example, writing a letter to the local newspaper, creating a campaign to target children's behaviour, holding a school assembly.
- 6 Discuss what might be the most effective way to:
  - get a response from your (local, state/territory or federal) representatives
  - raise public awareness
  - create media attention
  - target young people
  - change people's behaviour.
- 7 As a class, get involved and follow through your chosen activities to address the issue. You might:
  - create posters to put around the school to advertise 'wearing a helmet'
  - include the message at a school assembly and in the school newsletter
  - contact a local, state or federal representative and invite them to discuss the issue with your class or to provide possible solutions
  - contact the local newspaper to cover your campaign
  - write a petition to your council, state or federal representatives with signatures from the community
  - team up with a local community group or charity who shares your interest. Perhaps you can ask them for advice on how to get involved with this issue.
- 8 Discuss these questions when the activity is done:
  - Did/will our plan work?
  - Why/why not?
  - Is it possible for citizens to make a difference?
  - Why is it important for citizens to be active in our community?
  - How does active citizenship benefit the whole country?

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### Curriculum links

- Year 5 (ACHASSK118) (ACHASSI104)
  - Year 6 (ACHASSI132)
  - Year 7 (ACHCS060)
  - Year 8 (ACHCK062) (ACHCS074)
  - Year 9 (ACHCK079) (ACHCS089)
  - Year 10 (ACHCK094) (ACHCS102)
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