

Ethics-in-Action Project Planning Document

OVERVIEW: This document is a guide to using your moral reasoning skills to take action. It's designed to help you brainstorm, identify, and carry out an action that will lead to improvements in your school, community, neighborhood or city. This is one way we can bring our own ethics into action!

DIRECTIONS: Complete the steps of this graphic organizer below to brainstorm and plan an action project.

STEP 1: Brainstorming An Issue to Address

Question	Answer
What issue, problem, or concern most bothers me in my school, community, neighborhood, or city?	
Why does it matter to me?	
What moral values and principles are at risk because of this issue? (Ex: justice, fairness, honesty, integrity, etc)	
Who (people / groups) is affected by this issue? (Think about potential stakeholders close to this issue, or those who might be farther away, but still influenced)	
Who has power over this issue? Rank a list from "most powerful" to "least powerful" to get a sense of who / what groups have control.	
What change would improve this situation?	

STEP 2: Planning Civic Action

Take a look at the following options you have to take action on the issue you wrote about in step 1. Circle the actions that would best fit for your specific issue that you want to address. Then, answer the questions below.

Types of Civic Action	Example
Creating Awareness of the problem	Social Media Campaign
Persuading Those in Power to Help	Letter to City Council / School Board
Organizing Community Action	Volunteer event, boycott, protest, etc
Pushing for Institutional Change	Propose a new policy, law, or rule

Issue: What problem are you addressing?

Goal: What change do you want to see?

Audience: Who has the power to change this?

Action: What exactly will you do?

STEP 3: Workshopping Your Action Timeline

No matter what action you've chosen, you'll want to set a timeline for yourself with chunked steps to carry this out effectively. Think of this like a mini "due-date" calendar where you can divide up your action into steps.

Action Step	Description of task (or list of steps needed to complete task).	Ideal due date for task:

STEP 4: Drafting, Revising, and Implementing Your Civic Action

This stage of civic action is often the longest. Like any writer, you'll want to draft, edit, and revise the plan you've made to carry out this action. You will most likely want to seek feedback from peers, trusted adults, or community members that may also care about this issue. Rarely do we act alone. This stage will take time, and it may be different for each person, depending on which issue you're addressing and which action you've planned.

STEP 5: Reflection

After planning and carrying out your action, you'll want to reflect and start the process over again if and when needed. Here are some questions worth asking: How did your action go? Were you successful in your implementation? What small wins did you achieve? What losses / struggles did you encounter? Did you stick to your timeline? Why or why not? What changes would you make in the future if you were to take this action again? Is follow up action needed? If so, what would be best, and how would you go about it?