Civic Action Project

# Overview

Our final portfolio for the year will be a project that will get you involved in your local government and community. Over the course of this unit you will identify a problem facing your neighborhood/town/community, research the causes of this problem, and develop an action plan to begin addressing that problem by working towards a solution. Your final project proposal will take the form of a PowerPoint (unless you decide to present it in a different way, see Alternative Assignments).

* **Topic**: Identify a problem in your local community, and create a plan your local government can use to start fixing that problem.

# Format

This project will be completed in two parts.

* **Part 1**: An outline using the template at the bottom of this post will be turned in at the end of lesson 9 as a rough draft. Your outline does not have to have complete sentences, but must give a clear idea of what your problem is, and how you plan to solve it.
* **Part 2**: Your final PowerPoint presentation on your plan will be due at the end of Lesson 14 at the end of the unit. This presentation must have:
  + A title slide
  + At least 7 content slides (not including the title and works cited)
  + An MLA formatted works cited slide at the end.
  + At least three pictures that are related to the content of the slide.

Note: If you don’t have PowerPoint, you can also use GoogleSlides or [LibreOffice,](https://www.libreoffice.org/) which are free.

Alternative Assignments

If you don’t want to do a PowerPoint, or wish to challenge yourself, you can consider the following (note, if you want to take any of these options, you must contact me first so we can go over your plan):

* Record a video of yourself explaining your town’s problem and presenting your proposal.
* Write a report on your town’s problem and your proposed solution
* Create a website or blog that educates visitors about the problems faced by your town, and sells them on your solution.
* Other

# Project Breakdown

## Step 1-Learning about your Local Government and Identifying a Problem

Probably the hardest part of this project will be figuring out what you want to do it on. To be successful, it’s important to learn about your local government.

For many of you who live outside of Boston, your local government is the government of the town you live in. For those of you who live in Boston, your local government is the district you live in.

You should start by using the [Civic Action Project note packet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Do1_EM-Dib9pcpP2TugsIEfP0-B9WNAktEVt4aJrh4/copy) to help gather some basic information about your community where you live. Fill out Part 1 to get the necessary background information (note: most of this information can be found on your community’s website or Wikipedia page).

Once you have that background information, you can then move on to part 2 of the note packet, and start brainstorming what problem you want to focus on for your project. Your problem needs to:

1. Effect members of your community
2. Not have already been solved
3. Be a problem that is reasonably dealt with by your local community. (Cleaning up a polluted river makes sense, preventing global terrorism does not).

If you get stuck, here are some ideas:

* + overcrowded animal shelters
  + poor-quality school lunches with low nutritional values
  + people driving too fast on residential streets
  + criminal activity in nearby vacant homes
  + cigarette advertisements near schools
  + homelessness
  + parks filled with litter
  + students in wheelchairs not being able to get into the school bleachers
  + drunk driving

## Step 2-Creating Your Outline/ Discussion

Now that you have some research ideas, and you know what problem you want to solve, you can start working on your rough draft of your PowerPoint (note: the rough draft is just an outline, you don’t need to make a PowerPoint yet).

You can use the [Outline Template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OthkVHwOQ9GeAYVk4gUck1S0gpL1SLxkYtZA_3FWKeg/copy) I provided to help you, and look at the sample outline proposed in the lesson. Note that no two PowerPoints will be identical, and you may want to change up the formatting

to better suit your project. If you’re not sure if changing something will lose you points, webmail me and I will let you know.

The goal of your outline/ discussion is to give me an idea of what your project is about so I can provide feedback. If you follow the directions you will automatically get full credit for this.

Part of making your outline will be coming up with a plan for solving your problem. Here is some advice to help you do this:

* Read what others have suggested. You’re likely not the first person to realize this problem, so look at solutions other people proposed
* If the problem feels too big, try to break it down and identify ways you could make it better. For example, while you’re unlikely to solve homelessness as a social problem, by creating a homeless shelter you can help alleviate the suffering.
* If you feel up for it, get in touch with your local government or charity organizations and ask them for help and suggestions.

## Step 3-Create your PowerPoint

Once you have your outline written, with my feedback, and your research is done, it’s time to start working on your PowerPoint.

A couple rules of thumb:

* Each PPT must contain a title slide, a works cited slide, and at least three visuals (pictures, graphs, ect).
* Your PPT must be at least 7 slides, not including the Works Cited and Title slides, but can have more if you wish.
* Your font should be readable.
* Leave out any transitions, they’ll slow down grading.
* Please submit this as a PowerPoint, not a PDF. Remember, even if you do it in Google Slides you can save it as a PPT file and upload it to the dropbox.
* The text in the PowerPoint must be in your own words, do not copy and paste.

Beyond that, I leave the actual design of these PowerPoints to you. Feel free to rearrange, use creative backgrounds, and break up information over multiple slides if they’re getting too crowded.

If you want help getting started, here is my [PowerPoint Template](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19-8HPIMeBdwGGxyBKp1NBDHsduO0NiKDaAzRgkbLGOE/copy). You do not need to follow this layout exactly, but all the information in it should also be in your PowerPoint. Here is the general layout you want to follow:

* Title Slide
* Background Slide-Tell me about your town
* Slide 1 – Identify the problem.
* Slide 2 – Explain why it is a problem.
* Slide 3 – Propose possible solutions using appropriate government channels.
* Slides 4 and 5 – Provide appropriate evidence that might support your solution.
* Slides 6 and 7 – Present your action plan for solving the problem.

Note that in my template I split slide three across several slides, because I wanted to avoid cramming too much information onto one slide.

# Resources

1. [Civic Action Project note packet](https://docs.google.com/document/d/15Do1_EM-Dib9pcpP2TugsIEfP0-B9WNAktEVt4aJrh4/copy) (worth a bonus portfolio grade)
2. [Outline Template](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OthkVHwOQ9GeAYVk4gUck1S0gpL1SLxkYtZA_3FWKeg/copy)
3. [PowerPoint Template](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/19-8HPIMeBdwGGxyBKp1NBDHsduO0NiKDaAzRgkbLGOE/copy)
4. [Work Cited Instructions](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1IhaeVwZIu4mHHVc11bNnffXg7M5aamsSs02uAZt6jfg/edit?usp=sharing)
5. [YouCanBookMe Link](https://blemos.youcanbook.me/) (For if you need help)
6. [CheckMyWork directions](https://www.connexus.com/forum/messages.aspx?idSection=1240633&idForumThread=1570613)
7. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/easthampton-town-ma>