Participatory Action Research Teams

**Local Research Team**: Investigate how our issue affects local community members. Team members may design and conduct a **community survey or set of interviews**, to hear from community members about our issue and collect their ideas for how to solve it. You can select which “survey population” you’d like your team to interview (fellow students, families and neighbors, teachers and school staff, etc.). Team members also **investigate articles and videos from local news sources** to find current information about our issue. This team also reads about how other communities have addressed similar issues.

NOTE CATCHER

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| Fill out this section first, then scroll down for your Action Research preparation |  |
| Your name/s ➟ |  |
| Your Civic ISSUE ➟ |  |
| Your Team (local,  non-governmental, or governmental team) |  |
| Your Plan: Who will you contact? How?  (For ex, Rep. Mindy Domb, by email, or All 8th graders, by advisory survey) |  |
| STOP and fill out the rest AFTER your action research. Scroll down for next steps. |  |
| WHAT is happening with our issue in our community? (Both positive and negative actions) |  |
| WHY is our issue happening? (Evidence of systemic root causes of our issue) |  |

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| HOW could our issue be helped or solved? (Potential policy goals) |  |
| WHO is involved in this issue? (Potential allies and obstacles) |  |

**Sample Survey Questions:**

“I/We are doing a project in Civics class about . Please answer a few questions about this issue. Your answers will help us understand how our community is affected by this issue.”

When writing a survey, **avoid** these common mistakes:

* Asking two questions at a time. (Avoid: How many cars do you have and how often do you drive them?)
* Asking leading questions. (Avoid: How bad do you think climate change is? Instead, ask, “On a scale of 1 to 10, rate the effects of climate change on your community., 1 being no effect, 10 being severe effects.” You can always add an open-ended question asking them to explain their answer.)
* Using absolutes. (Avoid: Do you eat meat? Yes/No. Instead, ask, “How often do you eat meat? Every meal, every day / usually / occasionally / never.”)

Your survey should gather answers to the following questions:

* WHAT is happening with our issue in our community? (Both positive and negative actions)
* WHY is our issue happening? (Evidence of systemic root causes of our issue)
* HOW could our issue be helped or solved? (Potential policy goals)
* Any other questions you feel will help you take action for your community.

WRITE YOUR SURVEY or INTERVIEW QUESTIONS BELOW.

**Local News Research:**

**Investigate articles and videos from local news sources** to find current information about the issue. Read about how other communities have addressed similar issues.

Check out The Hampshire [Gazette](https://www.gazettenet.com/), or google *Amherst Indy* for local on-line news. You can also check news videos at this [link](https://www.westernmassnews.com/).

Source: Date How has this issue affected the community?

How have people reacted?

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