

**Your guide to ACTive Citizenship Projects whilst you Stay@Home**

Even though we are all staying at home to help the NHS and keep safe during the outbreak of Coronavirus, there are plenty of ways in which we can contribute to society and continue active citizenship projects.

We have put together this booklet to help inspire you and to guide you through our ACTive Citizenship process.

Use this guide to help you record your plans, actions and reflections.

Answer the questions as you go so you have a record of the great things you have done and what you learn on the way.

You can use your booklet to prepare your final news article or report to submit to the ACTive Citizenship Award Scheme. Your teacher will help you do this.

If you are a little stuck for ideas whilst indoors use our suggestions to help you get started.

**Some ACTive Citizenship ideas relating to the Coronavirus**

* **Find out how life has changed for keyworkers**. Most of us know a key worker (someone in the NHS, pharmacist, supermarket worker, delivery driver, teacher etc). You could ask them questions about how their job has changed since the outbreak of COVID-19. What are the key issues for them and the people they serve? Create your interview questions perhaps discussing these with someone at home first. You could email or arrange a telephone call. Write this up as a blog or newspaper article to raise awareness of the issues and changes with others in the community.
* **Create messages of encouragement!** Create a window poster at home to show your support for those working hard to keep local services and shops going. Send cards or virtual postcards to local key workers to encourage them. You could also share you work with your local newspaper and ask them to share with those in the local community.
* **Research what local support is available for those in isolation or who need help getting food.** Find out what is available in your local community at supermarkets (some have food collection points), through the council, a local food bank or in your neighbourhood. If you have internet access you might also find out what is going on in other parts of the country by looking at news reports. What could you do to raise awareness of those who need extra help at this time?
* **Find out about local charities**. What kinds of charities exist in your local area and what kinds of work do they do. How many people are affected and need help? E.g. Can you find out about the number of homeless people in your area. How could you raise awareness of their work and the issues they are trying to address?
* **Online community group.** You could set up and read and discussion group with your friends to encourage reading and learning about new topics. You could publish short reviews on the books that your read and share this with your friends, families and neighbours. You might extend this to films.

**Other ACTive Citizenship ideas**

* **Investigate - how sustainable is your community!** Many people are concerned about the environment and how to reduce waste and increasing their household recycling. Often local councils publish information about much household recycling has happened each month compared to the waste disposed. How well is your community doing? Has this changed over time? Are there any differences between winter months and summer months? Why might this happen? What else could be done to improve the situation locally? Find out the facts and design a campaign to raise awareness of the issues. Think about how you will persuade your neighbourhood to improve their waste reduction and recycling behaviour.
* **Join a local, national or international campaign!** Thinking about your own interests and concerns why not find a campaign that you can join.You can start by looking at what charities do to support the issues and the kinds of work do they do. How many people are affected and need help? One simple way of showing support to those affected is to write letters of support. The Amnesty ‘Write for Rights’ campaign is one example. Every year thousands of people send letters to those who are being imprisoned or having their human rights abused. You can find out more here https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights/
* **Create a case study of your community hero.** You might know someone who you think deserves special recognition for their work in the community. This might be as part of their job or because they volunteer or help those around them. What do they do and why? Do you think they should get special recognition? How are they an example to other active citizens? What could we learn from them? You might identify someone to interview to help you with your case.
* **Design a citizenship lesson for your peers**

Choose an area of Citizenship that you have find interesting, have studied, or you would like to find out more about. This could be a particular issue such as climate change or lowering the voting age or could a broader topic such as human rights, equality, elections and voting, or how laws are made. You are then going to plan a lesson, for your peers, on your chosen topic. You should include:

* A starter – this should link to your chosen topic and grab attention/make others think. This could be an image, a quote, a newspaper headline – with perhaps a question relating to the source/s you have chosen.
* Main Learning – this should be where you teach your peers about the topic you have chosen. You may choose to make a presentation or perhaps create a factsheet which presents the key information you think your peers should know about your topic. You could include a combination or text and images, or you may choose to make a video.
* Plenary – this is where you can check the learning! You could write a quiz, or set an activity such as writing a diary entry, or perhaps writing a Tweet to sum up what they have learnt.

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**The ACTive Citizenship award** is organised into three stages…

1. **Get Planning!**
2. **Take Action!**
3. **Measure impact!**

The following steps guide you through the ACTive Citizenship process!

**1. Choose your issue**. Research and explore the issue you hope your action will help to address.  **2. Who and what can help?** Think about local organisations, people and what might help you take the issue forward. How might you do this whilst at home? What else could you do once you back at school?

**3. What action will you take?** This will be limited due to the fact that we all have to stay indoors, you can still be creative.

**4. Make your plan** Think about what you need to do when and how others might be involved.

**5. Put your plan into action** Take your action and record what you do as you go.

**6. Time to reflect.** Think about your action and it’s impact. What did you learn on the way?

**7. Report your story!** We would like to hear about what you did. Your teacher will help you submit your news report to us.

**Get Planning!**

**Steps 1 and 2 Choose your issue and think about who can help.**

Think about a local issue that you think is affecting your community at the moment. Maybe it is loneliness, maybe it is food poverty, or homelessness. These issues don’t go away just because we are all indoors and we can still help make a difference to these issues during this time of social isolation.

Use the space below to mind-map some of the different social issues you can think of that might be affecting your community right now.

Record these below around the speech bubble (write the name of your community/local area in the bubble) or write these up as part of your ACTive Citizenship reflection journal.

As you think of different social issues try to find out some information about that social issue using the internet or the local newspaper. For example, can you find out the numbers of people sleeping rough in your area? Can you find out where your local food back is?

Who and what can help? What local charities are there to support those in need? What is the local council doing to help the community? Can you find out if anyone is providing food collections for older people in your local area as many elderly people need to self-isolate to stay safe at this time?

The social issue I have chosen to focus on is………………………………………………………….

I chose this issue because………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………………………………………………………………………………….

Skills tracker – what skills have you used in this stage? Circle which ones. Write down any extras….

Communication Research Analysis Problem solving

**Step 3 What action will you take? Identify the kind of action you want to take**

Take Care! you will need to think carefully about your action and the limitations of not being able to go outside at the moment!

Use the ideas above and if you can talk with your parents/guardian, grandparents or friends about things you think are realistic.

Try to think of three different options of actions that might help towards preventing or raise awareness of the social issue you have identified above.

**Action idea 1:**

I think this might help prevent the social issue of…………………………..

I think this will help the local community because…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

The pros of this action are: The cons of this action are:

………………………………………………………………………

**Action idea 2:**

I think this might help prevent the social issue of…………………………..

I think this will help the local community because…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

The pros of this action are: The cons of this action are:

**Action idea 3:**

I think this might help prevent the social issue of…………………………..

I think this will help the local community because…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

The pros of this action are: The cons of this action are:

The ACTive Citizenship action I have chosen to take is ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

I have chosen this action because….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Skills tracker – what skills have you used in this stage? Circle which ones. Write down any extras….

Communication Research Analysis Problem solving Planning

**Step 4 – Make your plans**

This is where you can plan what your action will be and what form it will take. This will depend on what your goal is. For example, if you want to raise awareness of the issues of homelessness, how could you do this? (You might take inspiration from the ideas on page 1 or have your own ideas)

Think about…

Who do you need to contact?

Do you need to create a record sheet to write information down?

Do you need to design something to communicate or persuade others?

Do you need to create a message to send to friends to organise a time for something to happen?

When are these things going to happen?

What is your role and how might help you?

Your plan will describe what you are going to do and when you are going to do things.

Use the space below to plan your action, perhaps you will section your page off into boxes or create a large mind map. Make sure you have some evidence of planning here as this will help later in your project. The table below might help you.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Who? | What?  | When? | How? |
| 1. |  |  |  |
| 2. |  |  |  |
| 3. |  |  |  |
| 4. |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Skills tracker – what skills have you used in this stage? Circle which ones. Write down any extras….

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**Step 5 Put your plan into action!**

Write down the things you will use as evidence to demonstrate that you have taken action to try to address the issue you have chosen. Your evidence could be:

notes/ leaflets/ posters you made/ photographs of the things that you did/comments from local people about the impact that you made.

Include anything you did that made you feel proud. You could keep an action journal of what happened each day if your project lasts for a few weeks or more.

**My Evidence**

Skills tracker – what skills have you used in this stage? Circle which ones. Write down any extras….

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**Step 6. Time to reflect!**

Now that you have completed your action, let’s think about how it went. Write down the what went wells and the even better ifs in the table below….

Think about what you learned about the issue, about the people involved, and working with others in your community at this time.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What went well** | **Even Better if….. (improvements/ problems)** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Through this project I learned…**Knowledge about…New information…Skills to…About myself…About others… |

**Step 7. Report your story!**

Now it is time to share your experience of taking action.

Write a short reflective piece below of in your journal in the style of a newspaper article to explain what you did, what you learnt from the action, why you did it and if you think you made an impact on your local community and why/ why not. This will be sent to ACT and First News (a newspaper designed for children)

Use more space than provided below if you need it. Don’t forget to include photographs of what you did if you have these.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Your Name:** |  |
| **Your School:** |  |
| **My issue was…** |  |
| **The change or improvement I wanted to make was…** |  |
| **The action I took was…** |  |
| **I feel my action made a difference because…** |  |
| **Next time I might…** |  |

**And finally…**

Make sure you keep your work and let your teacher know what you have been up to.

We look forward to hearing about your ACTive Citizenship soon!

Skills tracker – what skills have you used in this stage? Circle which ones. Write down any extras….

Communication Research Analysis Problem solving Planning