

Project Stories

Grade Level: All
Time: Two 45-minute sessions

Objective:

- Discover potential options for influencing their issue.
- Identify several project ideas.
- Identify possible problems and develop strategies to address them.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Language Arts, Computer Skills

Materials: Internet access, information on previous projects from PA website or other Youth Activism sites, [Project Proposal Form](http://www.publicachievement.org/TeacherGuide/Activities/ProjectProposal.pdf) (<http://www.publicachievement.org/TeacherGuide/Activities/ProjectProposal.pdf>)

Procedure:

- 1) Students research youth projects stories on websites from the Web Resources sheet that show groups overcoming community problems through public work.
- 2) Students evaluate the projects for:
 - Similarities to their own issue and potential projects.
 - Materials and resources that the other group used.
 - Obstacles and setbacks that the group faced.
 - Things that worked and suggestions for success.
 - Potential contacts for influencing issue policies.
- 3) Students brainstorm and develop a list of projects they would like to work on and present them to the team.
- 4) Teams discuss project ideas and vote on the most promising and feasible one.
- 5) Teams complete project proposal and begin further research.

Reflection Activities:

- Students identify and critique problems from past project stories and list ways that they can avoid making the same mistakes.
- In small groups, students analyze and discuss project stories, looking for strategies that will help them achieve their own goals.
- Teams develop project proposals, suggesting methods that would work well for achieving their goals.

Assessment:

- Written project proposals.

Source: John Wright