

Lesson 9 & 10

Action Research and Activity Weeks



How this links to the curriculum - Strand 3: Exploring democracy

Well-being indicators: Connected/Resilient/Aware

These lesson plans can either be completed in two 40-minute periods or the action completion activity can be used as winter or summer assessment pieces.

They can be structured to allow your students to use their actions as their Classroom-Based Assessment or Citizenship Action Record for one of the three strands depending on the detail and depth of the survey and action aspects.

This flexibility will allow you to gauge the interest and ability of your own students.

Tips

- It is a good idea to have some areas identified prior to this class and to consider the ability of the groups in your class as well as timescale, accessibility to materials etc.
- Ensure that each student has a clearly defined role within each group.
- It may be preferable for the class to have a vote on one possible action to carry out together for greater impact and easier facilitation.

Possible actions

- Identify a human rights issue of concern in your school and through data collection, organise a campaign on that issue.
- Create and carry out a survey that focuses on one human rights issue in your school or community that your class has identified. Organise a campaign or hold a Human Rights Day in the school based on your findings.
- A campaign can be organised through social media, the school website, or a poster campaign on school notice boards. You can use the school newsletter to publish the class findings.
- Develop and conduct a survey focusing on a human rights issue and publish the survey findings through infographics on the school's social media or on factsheets for display in an exhibition.
- Research a development issue of concern in your local area. Collect data on this issue through surveys and organise a consultation with a local political representative to answer questions on the issue.
- Use digital technology or other means to create awareness of the issue.
- Publish your findings to start a campaign.
- Organise a debate to highlight your findings.
- Through surveys, investigate how media and social media affects how young people form opinions on the issues covered in this resource. Share your findings.
- Develop and conduct a survey focusing on an aspect of the legal or democratic system in Ireland. Use your findings to organise an exhibition or event to raise awareness.

Steps to completing the action

Now your students know what a census is, and how data can be used to effect change and to ensure proper planning, explain they can now do the same in the context of their own school or community.

Explain to your students that all meaningful actions begin with proper research.

Explain that they will use a survey like that of the census as a means of data collection to identify and carry out an action in order to help raise awareness on one of the topics covered in this resource.

1. In groups of four or as a class, decide on an issue from the topics covered that is of genuine interest or concern to your students.
2. Brainstorm with the class on how to organise a survey. Decide on the survey size and how to deliver it. Discuss keeping questions simple, how long they need to be, and what information you are looking for
3. Divide the class into groups.
4. Brainstorm the different group tasks. (e.g. Divide the class into groups such as, the permission group, the questions group, the design group, the distribution group, the calculating group, the awareness day organising group etc). Ensure that everyone in your class has a meaningful job to do.
5. Decide on your Action. Once the data has been gathered, how are your students going to present their findings? Ensure this is achievable.
6. Make an Action Plan. This should include details on dates and a plan of how everyone will carry out their jobs.
7. Remember to keep evidence of all the various steps to use for your Citizenship Action Record/CBA. (photos, records of group decisions and plans etc.).
8. Conduct the survey.
9. Calculate your data.
10. Present the findings through the action agreed.

Note

If you intend these weeks to be used as an Action record or as a CBA ensure that your students present the activity in the correct format as per the NCCA guidelines. These can also be found in your students' textbooks.