

Gathering Information About a Community Need

What does your community need? Use the questions in the following four categories as guides for finding out. As a class, you might agree to explore one topic, for example, how kids get along at school, hunger and poverty, or an environmental concern. Or you might decide to learn about general needs at school or in the surrounding area. Form small groups, with each group focusing on one category and gathering information in a different way.

Finding out about

Media

What media (newspapers—including school newspapers, TV stations, radio) in your community might have helpful information? List ways you can work with different media to learn about needs in your community.

Interviews

Think of a person who is knowledgeable about this topic in your area—perhaps someone at school or in a local organization or government office. Write four questions you would ask this person in an interview.

An interview with

Questions:

1.

2.

3.

4.



Survey

A survey can help you find out what people know or think about a topic and get ideas for helping. Who could you survey—students, family members, neighbors? How many surveys would you want completed? Write three survey questions.

Who to survey:

How many surveys:

Questions for the survey:

1.

2.

3.

Observation and Experience

How can you gather information through your own observation and experience? Where would you go? What would you do there? How would you keep track of what you find out?

Next Step: Share your ideas. Make a plan for gathering information using the four categories. If you are working in small groups, each group may want to involve people in other groups. For example, everyone could help conduct the survey and collect the results. Compile the information you learn into a list of community needs.



Taking Action

Step 1: Think about the needs in our community. Make a list.

Step 2: Identify what you know.

- Select one community need:
- What is the cause?
- Who is helping?
- What are some ways we can help?

Step 3: Find out more.

- What do we need to know about this community need and who is helping?

- How can we find out?

Step 4: Plan for action.

- To help our community, we will:

- To make this happen, we will take on these responsibilities:

Who	Will do what	by when	Resources needed

Service Learning Proposal



Students or class: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

Project name: _____

Need—Why this plan is needed: _____

Purpose—How this plan will help: _____

Participation—Who will help and what they will do: _____

Students: _____

Teachers: _____

Other adults: _____

Organizations or groups: _____

Outcomes—What we expect to happen as a result of our work: _____

How we will check outcomes—What evidence we will collect and how we will use it: _____

Resources—What we need to get the job done, such as supplies (itemize on back): _____

Signatures: _____



Our Service Plan

Students or Class: _____

Teacher: _____

School: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Project name: _____

Our idea: _____

This helps others by: _____

Student names and jobs:

My name _____ My job _____

My name _____ My job _____

My name _____ My job _____

Others who will help:

Students: _____

Teachers: _____

Other adults: _____

Organizations: _____

Supplies needed: _____

Our expectations: _____

Signatures: _____