**Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Civic Action Project**

**Researching a Public Issue for your Civic Action Project**

I. Choose 3 issues you are interested in. Follow steps to narrow down to 1.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Explain issue** | **Your personal connection to issue (why this?)** |
| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3 |  |

II. Complete preliminary research about each issue above.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Topic 1 Search terms | Can I easily find 3 sources of info on this issue? |  |
| Am I finding support for my side of issue? |  |
| Do others care about this issue? |  |
| Topic 2 search terms | Can I easily find 3 sources of info on this issue? |  |
| Am I finding support for my side of issue? |  |
| Do others care about this issue? |  |
| Topic 3 search terms | Can I easily find 3 sources of info on this issue? |  |
| Am I finding support for my side of issue? |  |
| Do others care about this issue? |  |

III. Which of the 3 issues will you be taking civic action on? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

IV. Research tips: **Be specific about the issue you want to research.** Start by noting what you already know and then listing what you want to find out. Make a list of keywords to help you in your search.

* What do you already know about the issue?
* What specifics do you want to find out?
* Make a list of keywords to help you in your search.

V. **2 Search a variety of sources.** Look for information from various sources, including people in your community, the Internet, books, newspapers, and periodicals.

Suggested Research Source List:

* www.scsd .us / library links/ eresources / opposing viewpoints
* [www.procon.org](http://www.procon.org)
* www.scsd .us / library links/ eresources / infotrac newsstand
* mainstream new sources (cnn, foxnews, 9wsyr, cnycentral, Syracuse.com, etc.

**VI. Organize the information you find. Use chart on next page and remember data convinces!!!!!**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Who |  |
| What |  |
| Where |  |
| When |  |
| Why |  |
| How |  |

**Analyze the information.** Look at the data you have gathered carefully. For each important fact, ask yourself: Is this information relevant, accurate, and current? Does is come from reliable, unbiased sources? Can I cross-check its validity against other sources? How does it relate to other data I found in my research?

**VII. Communicate your findings.** The best way to summarize and synthesize your research results is to share your findings with others.

Whom you most want to communicate your research results? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

What is the best civic action to reach this audience? (Choose from list below) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Writing a Letter to the Editor 15
* Writing and Circulating a Petition 17
* Writing a Press Release 19
* Testifying Before a Public Body 21
* Creating and Conducting an Opinion Survey 28
* Posting Opinions on the Internet 30
* Communicating with a Public Official 35
* Organizing a Letter-Writing Campaign 37
* Lobbying on an Issue 39
* Organizing a Public Demonstration 49
* Organizing a Fundraiser 51
* Starting a Civic Organization 55
* Organizing a BUYcott 57

**\*\*\*\*\*If you have another idea please see Mrs. Argus for go ahead \*\*\*\***

**See Civic Action Project Post under Online assignments for specifics for your civic action chosen above. Hard copies also available, see Mrs. Argus**