

Taking Action to Make a Difference

Once students have completed their inquiry projects, they may be inspired to take action to make a difference on a local, or perhaps even global, scale. This lesson encourages students to think about and plan ways of taking action.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: ● chart paper and markers, or interactive whiteboard

Grouping: whole class and partners

Procedure:

Teaching Tip: There are many ways for students to take action including fundraising for a specific cause; raising awareness of an issue through creative means such as creating a video or a pamphlet; or advocating for a cause by speaking out or letter writing.

1. Explain to students that if they want to take action, they need to think about the various methods that this action might take. Tell them that you are going to work together to explore different ways to take action.
2. Ask students to turn to a partner and talk about one way they have used or have seen others use to take action.
3. Ask students to suggest ways they could take action individually or with a group to make a difference locally or even globally. Record their ideas on chart paper or an interactive whiteboard.
4. Discuss the various options with the whole group and talk about the need for actions to be “doable.” Think about what resources, such as time, energy, or money, would be needed to accomplish each action.
5. Explain that once students have decided on an action, they need to make an action plan with specific goals, actions, and a timeline.

Think of a time when you or someone else took action on an issue. It might have been writing a letter to the Principal about the need for more green space around the school, or cleaning up garbage at a local park with your family.

If we decide to fundraise, our action plan should list a goal such as how much money we would like to raise; the steps we would need to take; and a timeline for when we would finish each step. If we decided to speak out at community events, our action plan might list how many events we would like to attend or how many people we would like to talk to.

6. Tell students that once an action plan has been accomplished it is important to reflect on their actions.

It's important to ask yourself if your goals were met and if the results of your action plan were what you expected. What were the strengths and weakness of your action plan?

Teaching Tip: If students are working in small groups or pairs, ask them to reflect on their action plan together to see how they might improve it next time.