

NINE STEPS TO TAKING ACTION

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- 1. TEAM UP** – your project will be better if you work with friends and other students.
- 2. GET STARTED:**
 - Talk to students and teachers about their ideas on how to make school more interesting and engaging.
 - Conduct a survey to find out how students see a particular problem. Find out how others have worked to create change around an issue like yours.
 - Check out what other students have done or search for other ideas on your own.
 - Make a list of potential projects and choose one great idea.
 - Learn more about the issue you want to tackle. Brainstorm with your group to come up with original, creative ideas.
- 3. CREATE A PROJECT PLAN** – After choosing a project, create a plan of action including:
 - Timelines
 - Budget
 - Who will do what
- 4. KNOW YOUR GOALS** and how you will carry out the plan:
 - Be clear on what the specific action or idea that your group agreed to take on. Think about how you could make this idea workable.
 - Consider your school culture and environment and make projects fit the current needs of your school.
- 5. TAKE ACTION** – Go ahead and start your project. Get other students involved and use assemblies, meetings and P.A. announcements to promote and recognize your project.
- 6. KEEP TRACK OF YOUR EFFORTS** – Keep good notes as you go along. A record of events will help you keep track of remaining tasks, as well as the group's accomplishments. Clip stories from school and community newspapers. Take pictures or film your event in action.
- 7. ASSESS SUCCESS** – Debrief after you finish your project. Think about what you have done to see if you achieved your goals. Identify possible next steps and consider continuing your project if possible.
- 8. SHARE YOUR IDEAS**, successes and even the pitfalls you encountered. We want to hear about how projects are impacting students and schools. People can learn from what you have done. Create an online photo-essay exhibit, publish a booklet or produce a video about your efforts.
- 9. CELEBRATE YOUR SUCCESSES!** Celebrations can let others at your school see the possibilities open to them and may encourage them to get involved. Plus you deserve acknowledgement for all the work that you have done!