

Lesson brief – ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

This lesson will aim to empower students to make a positive difference in their local community through active citizenship and social action.

Lesson objectives

At the end of the lesson students will:

- Identify what an Active Citizen is
- Identify what a Community is
- Explain and create a Social Action plan
- Present a Social Action plan to their peers

Resources

- Slideshow – Active Citizenship
- Projector and speakers for videos
- Felt tip pens
- Access to the internet
- A3 or A4 handout of the Social Action Model Template

Suggested Lesson Plan: 1 hour



Starter – Define

Start the lesson by defining what we mean by the term “Active Citizenship” and by showing the LVRW 2024 animation, available at <https://youtu.be/cdwapnrDBt4?feature=shared>

Discussion Activity:

Organise your students into groups or pairs and have them discuss what they think a social action is. Then ask the student to think of one example of a social action.

Link back to Active Citizenship if students are struggling to think about what a social action could be.

Presenter Mode:

Slide 5: Outline the definition of a social action.

Ask if the students can name any examples of people taking action and conducting a social action in their community.

Slide 6: Outline the three different categorisations of a social action.

Activity: Idea

Use this activity to allow the students to briefly outline an issue they want to tackle.

Have the students outline if this social action will be done in the form of fundraising, volunteering or campaigning.

Ask the students to feedback to you on their issue and the categorisation they plan on doing it through.

Presenter Mode & Discussion

Slide 8: Remind the students that their issue should be linked to their local community, e.g.: in London.

Prompting question:

- Does your issue affect your local community?
- Will it be easier to tackle this in your local community rather than nationally or globally?

Activity: Appreciative inquiry

Appreciative inquiry is an approach used in many community development processes to build on people’s hope and capacity in order to bring about positive change.

Appreciative inquiry is based on the simple idea that people’s thoughts and actions are shaped by the questions they are asked. When people are only asked about problems, the possibilities that they can imagine for change are often limited. However, when they are also encouraged to talk about the things they value, enjoy or are proud of, we can open up new possibilities for the future that are rooted in the good things that already exist.

Ask students to write down:

- What makes them proud to live in London?
- What would they like to see in London in 5 years' time?

Make sure to feedback or write down on the whiteboard the student's ideas.

Presenter Mode & Discussion

Slide 9: Focus them on London's issues.

Prompting questions:

- Are there any issues that London faces that are not on the board?
- Do you think these are issues that only affect London?
- Do you think that they affect London in a different way?

Slide 10: Outline an example of a campaign led by young people to tackle public sexual harassment.

Read more about this here:

<https://www.glamourmagazine.co.uk/article/crime-not-compliment-campaign>

Note: You might want to tell students that this campaign was started by a 21 year-old and a 15 year-old.

Activity: Making a difference

Ask students to look at their original plan and see if they need to rephrase it to include a community element.

Activity: Research task

We want the young people to link back to facts. Ask the students to research using books, articles or the internet and find a statistic that proves social action is necessary.

Remind the students that fact-checking is essential, make sure the statistic is based on a study that is recent in time and can be applied to London, or the UK.

Have the students feedback their statistic to you and the rest of the class.

Activity: Social Action Model Template

Have the students fill in the Social Action Model Template in their groups.

Activity: Present the Social Action Model Template

Have the students in their groups present their Social Action Model Template to the rest of the class.

Note: You can extend this activity by asking students to transfer the template into a PowerPoint and present it to the class in the next lesson.