

Youth Social Action and Research



What is your question?

Explore the issue or cause area fully – consider here what reliable sources of information are?

Ask yourself why this topic matters – what do you already know (or think you know) about it, and is it based on facts or opinions. What would you like to find out about this issue?

Come up with a clear and answerable question, and one that you can realistically research and investigate. For example, it may be something like, is food poverty an issue in my local area? Or how is climate change impacting my local area?

How to explore the topic?

Once you have a good question, you need to think about how it will be; you need to think about how I will research it?

Think about whom you would perhaps need to talk to. If you want to think about how to help wildlife in your local area, you can speak to the local wildlife trust. Try to find as many sources of different information as possible.

- How reliable are the seeds?
- Do the sources agree or disagree?
- Consider all the other points of view.

Think about the resources you may need

How will you contact people, will you need to make notes, will you need to travel?

May you want to send people a short questionnaire? (produce a questionnaire example and perhaps a list of do's, don'ts and considerations (open or closed questions etc.)

If you're doing desk-based resources, a list of do's and don't's in accessing reports, and a guide on how to spot fake news.

What does the research tell us?

How does the research we have done help answer the research question?

What facts and figures can support our conclusions – how can we be sure our findings are credible – and most importantly, for social action – what should our response be from what we have found.

When considering social activity as well, what are the other possible reactions?

So if supporting food banks, what could be wider longer-term social change would mean this problem may be lessened. Critically consider where can we do the most good – would it be in organising a food drive or campaigning for change? (or both!)

What next?

What action do we commit to as a result of the research process?