

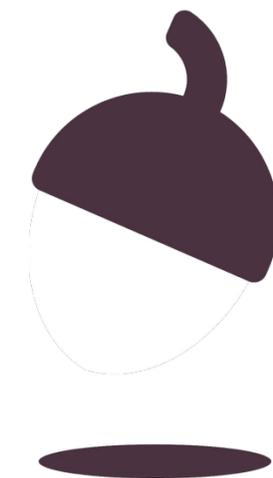
Citizenship

# What can we do as active citizens to improve our community? (Part 1)

Lesson 5 of 6

Downloadable Resource

Materials from the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT)



**OAK**  
NATIONAL  
ACADEMY

## Some ACTIVE Citizenship ideas relating to the Coronavirus

### Find out how life has changed for key workers.

Most of us know a key worker (someone in the NHS, pharmacist, supermarket worker, delivery driver, teacher etc).

You could ask them questions about how their job has changed since the outbreak of COVID-19. What are the key issues for them and the people they serve? Create your **interview questions**, perhaps discussing these with someone at home first. You could email or arrange a telephone call.

Write this up as a blog or newspaper article to raise awareness of the issues and changes with others in the community.



# Create messages of encouragement!

Create a window poster at home to show your support for those working hard to keep local services and shops going.

Send cards or virtual postcards to local key workers to encourage them.

You could also share your work with your local newspaper and ask them to share with those in the local community.

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# Research what local support is available for those in isolation or who need help getting food.

Find out what is available in your **local community** at supermarkets (some have food collection points), through the council, a local food bank or in your neighbourhood.

If you have internet access you might also find out what is going on in other parts of the country by looking at news reports.

What could you do to **raise awareness** of those who need extra help at this time?



# Find out about local charities.

What kinds of **charities** exist in your local area and what kinds of work do they do.

How many people are affected and need help? E.g. Can you find out about the number of homeless people in your area.

How could you **raise awareness** of their work and the issues they are trying to address?



# Online community group.

You could set up a **discussion group** with your friends to encourage reading and learning about new topics.

You could **publish short reviews** on the books that you read and share this with your friends, families and neighbours.

You might extend this to films.



# Investigate - how sustainable is your community?

Many people are concerned about the **environment** and how to reduce waste and increasing their household recycling. Often local councils publish information about much household recycling has happened each month compared to the waste disposed. Find out the **facts** and **design a campaign** to **raise awareness** of the issues.

Think about how you will **persuade** your neighbourhood to improve their waste reduction and recycling behaviour.

- How well is your community doing?
- Has this changed over time?
- Are there any differences between winter months and summer months?
- Why might this happen?
- What else could be done to improve the situation locally?



# Join a local, national or international campaign!

Thinking about your own interests and concerns, why not find a campaign that you can join? You can start by looking at what charities do to **support the issues** and the kinds of work do they carry out.

How many people are affected and need help?

One simple way of showing support to those affected is to write letters of support. The Amnesty 'Write for Rights' **campaign** is one example. Every year thousands of people send letters to those who are being imprisoned or having their **human rights abused**.



# Create a case study of your community hero.

You might know someone who you think deserves **special recognition** for their work in the **community**. This might be as part of their job or because they **volunteer** or help those around them.

What do they do and why?

Do you think they should get special recognition?

How are they an example to other **active citizens**?

What could we learn from them?

You might identify someone to **interview** to help you with your case.



# Design a Citizenship lesson for your peers

Choose an area of **Citizenship** that you find interesting, have studied, or you would like to find out more about.

This could be a particular issue such as **climate change** or **lowering the voting age** or could be a broader topic such as **human rights, equality, elections and voting**, or how **laws** are made.

You are then going to plan a lesson, for your peers, on your chosen topic.

**More on the next slide...**



# Design a Citizenship lesson - You should include:

**A Starter** – this should **link** to your chosen topic and grab attention/make others think. This could be an image, a quote, a newspaper headline – with perhaps a question relating to the **source/s** you have chosen.

**Main Learning** – this should be where you **teach your peers** about the topic you have chosen. You may choose to make a **presentation** or perhaps create a **factsheet** which presents the key information you think your peers should know about your topic. You could include a **combination of text and images**, or you may choose to make a **video**.

**Plenary** – this is where you can check the learning! You could write a **quiz**, or set an activity such as **writing a diary entry**, or perhaps **writing a Tweet** to sum up what they have learnt.



**My Action Idea is:**

**I think this might help my issue because:**

**I think this might help the local community because:**

**The pros of this action are:**

**The cons of this action are:**



**Do this activity AFTER you have decided which action is best to take.**

**The ACTIVE Citizenship action I have chosen to take is:**

**I have chosen this action because:**



# Planning your action:

- Who do you need to contact?
- Do you need to create a record sheet to write information down?
- Do you need to design something to communicate or persuade others?
- Do you need to create a message to send to friends to organise a time for something to happen?
- When are these things going to happen?
- What is your role and who might help you?



# Planning Table (with an example)

<b>What</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Where</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Why</b>
Contact my friends to discuss my idea.	Sam and Jo	My garden as we can socially distance	Saturday morning at 10am	Because it will take more than one of us to make the action successful.

