

Topic: Political rights and responsibilities

Lesson 2: Making a difference to my local community	KS or Year Group: KS 3
Resources: 1. Resource 2 - Manifesto for change (one each)	Outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students will be able to present a persuasive case for action.• Students will be able to propose practical ways forward, breaking these down into manageable steps.• Students will be able to identify improvements that would benefit others as well as themselves.

Starter

Recap on the previous lesson and how the students identified positive and negative aspects of the area in which they live. The homework task was to carry out surveys, undertake further research and get peer feedback about the results of the surveys and research.

Main activity

- Give out the posters completed during the previous lesson. Ask groups to share the results of their surveys with the rest of their group and see if they support or disagree with what has been identified as an issue. They need to analyse the results, look at their surveys and see how much support they give to their original ideas.
- Explain that they now have the opportunity to change any or all of the issues and focus on something different if they think the evidence does not support their initial thinking. The groups then need to decide whether to continue with the issues they had identified or to focus on different ones in the light of their research. The ones they choose must be the ones they believe are of most relevance to key groups within the community.
- Once they have clarified the issues, remind them that each member of the group is to take responsibility for one issue (although they can help each other).

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- Explain that they now need to focus on the ideas in terms of how the issue can be improved or resolved. What solutions are they going to propose? They are going to help one another with this task by taking it in turns to discuss their issue and ideas or solutions with the rest of the group. They need to discuss what can realistically be done to bring about an improvement or change. They must think about the impact of the solutions now and in the future. They each then need to decide what solution(s) they are going to propose. Remind them that the solutions must be practical and useful.
- Distribute copies of **Resource 2 – Manifesto for change**. Explain it to them and answer any queries. Explain that by individually completing this manifesto, they will have a detailed plan outlining the issue and possible solutions because if they are going to bring about change and influence people they must be very well prepared in order to put their case for change forward.
- Clarify that these manifestos will be sent to members of the local council, so they are extremely important. Give them the rest of the lesson and homework to complete the manifesto. Remind them to bring their completed manifesto to the next lesson.

Plenary

Students to discuss:

- Would you do anything differently in order to improve the research aspect of this work?

If the answer is yes, then they may wish to undertake further research before the next lesson.

Resource 2: Manifesto for change



The manifesto will look at the issues that need to be improved or changed in your area and the possible solutions:

1. The main issue I am focusing on is:

Write about the issue you have chosen to address. Make sure you say what the issue is and why you have chosen to focus on it. Explain how you know this issue affects local people, referring to your surveys and the results of your research. You must consider these needs in the context of the wider society, not just your own community.

2. The causes and effects of the issue are:

Explain the causes and effects of the issue. Give reasons why you think this is an issue and try to identify the underlying causes.

Issue	Causes	Underlying causes
Litter	People throw litter on the streets.	People don't realise how much it costs the council to clear up the rubbish – lack of awareness.
Graffiti	Teenagers graffiti on buildings or walls, etc.	Teenagers are bored, there is nothing for them to do.

Explain who and/or what is affected by the issue.

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Issue	Effects
Litter	The council spends taxpayers' money on clearing up litter. People find it unpleasant. Shopkeepers find it puts people off shopping in their area. Animals and small children are injured by broken glass.
Graffiti	The council spends taxpayers' money on getting rid of the graffiti. People find it unpleasant.

3. I propose that the following should be done in order to improve or change the situation:

- Really think about the underlying causes - what can be done about them? Perhaps use some of the ideas that were generated in the results of your survey.
- In this section you are trying to work out what will be the most effective way to get things improved or changed. Can you take action yourself? Explain what you want done and the reasons for your suggestions. Generate ideas and think of alternatives or new solutions.
- Make sure your solutions or ideas are practical and have public support. Break your ideas down into manageable steps. Explain why you think these ideas will work and be effective.
- Discuss your ideas with the rest of your group. Explain the impact your suggestions would have, what would happen as a result of implementing them now and in the future. Write about the possible consequences if nothing is done about this issue.
- To try to influence the reader or listener, really make this section persuasive. Draw on what you have learnt. Are your ideas convincing? Do you think the council will listen to what you have to say and action your ideas?

4. Conclusion

Sum up your argument. End on a persuasive note and emphasise the benefits. Describe your vision for your area in the future.

Check list

Read through your manifesto for change and:

✓ the box if you have explained what the issue is, expressed and justified your opinions, backed up your own opinions with evidence of research and reflected on others' points of view.

✓ the box if you have proposed practical ways forward, breaking these down into manageable steps and identified improvements that would benefit others as well as yourself.

✓ the box if you have presented a persuasive case for action.

Make your manifesto eye-catching. You want people to read it!