

**PLANNING GUIDE****2****Students Take Action****Working to Fight Crime**

Some Project Citizen student groups described in your book worked to fight crime in their communities. For example, in response to drug dealing in local parks, some students decided to push for harsher punishments for people convicted of certain types of crimes.

Which crime issues may be a particular threat to young people in your community? Follow the steps below to identify a crime problem, research it, and formulate a public policy solution.



1. Work with two or three of your classmates, with help from the teacher, to determine possible crime problems in your community. Investigate ideas by researching online and interviewing friends and family members for their opinions on each issue. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Which crime and safety issues do many people seem concerned about?
  - Which problems most affect young people?
  - Which issue could we most likely influence with the resources we have?
  - What support could we get from government and law enforcement?
2. Take turns with other groups presenting your preliminary research findings and interpretations of the issues. Be sure to discuss related laws and measures that already exist. Then decide which crime-related issue your class will address.
3. As a class, decide on a plan of action and identify your goals. How can your proposals help protect people in your community? Determine what other actions could help solve the problem. Conducting a community poll may help you gather more ideas.
4. Under your teacher's guidance, work with group members to interview experts, such as members of local law enforcement, and perhaps neighborhood crime and watch groups. Meet with members of the local media and provide them with solid facts about why you are undertaking this project and what you hope to accomplish.
5. In a class discussion, identify what information needs to be put into the hands of local government and law enforcement leaders, and how. Then work in small groups to organize all of the information you have gathered in a complete report. Also, create a display that visually explains both why the issue is a threat to the community and your class's solution.
6. Ask to present at an upcoming village, town, or city council meeting. Along with your report and display, present any relevant statistics or statements from citizens. Explain how this issue affects the present and future safety of local citizens, and suggest your public policy solution.