

PLANNING GUIDE**4****Students Take Action****Working to Preserve the Past**

Some Project Citizen students described in your book were concerned about the preservation of historic sites and monuments in public spaces. To protect these historic places, students carefully researched and created a plan of action to present to members of their local and state governments.

Which activities may pose a threat to historic sites in your community? Follow the steps below to identify a preservation problem, research it, and formulate a public policy solution.



1. Brainstorm with your classmates and teacher possible historic preservation problems in your community, county, or state. Investigate ideas by familiarizing yourself with local sites and monuments, then researching online and interviewing family members on their opinions. Ask yourself the following questions:
 - Which places do the most people seem concerned about?
 - What poses the greatest threat to historic sites?
 - Which damaging activities or conditions could we most likely stop given the resources we have?
 - What support could we get (for example, government attention and grants)?
2. In small groups, compare your preliminary research findings and weigh the issues. Then, as a class, come to a consensus on the historic preservation issue you think your class will be best able to address.
3. As a class, decide on a plan of action. Identify the goals you hope to achieve, most importantly maintaining the historic site or monument and protecting it from future harm. Find out what is currently being done, if anything, to solve the problem.
4. Under your teacher's guidance, work with group members to interview experts at a nearby museum or historical preservation society. 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. Participate in a class discussion on what information needs to be put into the hands of local and possibly state 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 why the historic preservation issue is a concern to the present and future community and your class's public policy solution.
6. Ask to present at an upcoming village, town, or city council meeting. Along with your report and display, present statements from citizens, as well as statistics. Explain to the group how this issue affects how important historical events are honored and remembered in the community.