STUDENTS TAKE ACTION
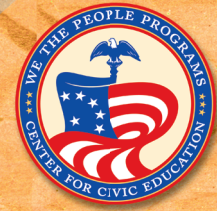
Creating a Library

Most schools in the United States have libraries for their students. What do you think you would do if your school did not have a library? A well-prepared proposal from student leaders in Rabat, Morocco, convinced the school's parent association to create and staff a school library.

Community Connection Although Morocco's Ministry of Education requires every school to have a library, it does not outline how those libraries should be organized or run. At one school in the city of Rabat, administrators just put textbooks on a few shelves in a classroom. There were no general interest books, and there was no space for students to sit and read.

Taking Action Project Citizen students in Mr. Mohammed Moussi's class wanted a real library, with space for books, a reading area, and a well-trained librarian. The teens studied their school and discovered that, although a library was included in the school's original architectural plan, it was never built. The students developed a proposal to build a new library, specifying its size, location, and cost. They identified partners to help sponsor the project, including parents, charity organizations, private donors, and local government. The students then submitted their plan to the school administration and parents' association. Parents soon began collecting books and equipment and searching for a librarian. The teens' leadership efforts have also expanded public awareness of the need to include libraries in other Moroccan schools.

School libraries are important for all students.

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Project Citizen
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SERVICE LEARNING

1. Why do you think students wanted a library in their school?
2. How do you think students decided which groups to contact to get support for their ideas?