

Civics Culminating Task

For your final task in Civics, you will be exploring an issue that is important to you and how you can become an active citizen and help solve or improve your issue.

STEP ONE: Choose your local, national or global issue

Choose an issue that you are interested in or feel strongly about. Here are some suggestions:

Lack of Clean Water	Global Warming	Acid Rain	Deforestation
Species Extinction	Ecosystem Collapse	Child Soldiers	Child Marriages
Energy Generation	Child Labour	Child Pornography	Child prostitution
Human trafficking	Refugees	Genocide	Living in war zones
Hunger	Crimes Against Humanity	Terrorism	Nuclear Disarmament
Human trafficking	Female genital mutilation	Illegal Sex Trade	Women's Rights
HIV/AIDs	STDs and Contraceptives	Respiratory Issues	Abortion
Poverty	Reproductive Technologies	Ebola	Education
Food Crisis	Illegal Immigration	Urbanization	One-Child Policy
Illegal Drug Trafficking	Orphans	Mental Illness	Suicide in Youth
Addiction (Drug/alcohol)	First Nation Peoples	GLBTQ Issues	Homelessness

STEP TWO: Become informed about your issue (Inquiry)

Research more about your issue by exploring websites, videos, movies, songs, newspapers, magazines, blogs, discussion forums, and Facebook pages. Try to find three sources of info about your issue.

- a) Complete the Research Organizer.
- b) Find a charity, non-profit, NGO or other organization that works to improve your issue. Complete the Organization organizer.
- c) Find a Canadian who is involved in this issue/organization and complete the Canadian Involvement organizer on them and their involvement.

STEP THREE: Design a plan with purpose (Knowledge)

Now you need to identify the many ways you can approach the solving of this issue. Use the Planning Sheet to explore your many options.

STEP FOUR: Actively try to help solve your issue (Application)--Active Citizenship Project

Raise Awareness	Gain Support	Personally Contribute
<i>Media Campaign</i>	<i>Letter to the Editor/Government</i>	<i>Volunteer or Donate</i>
Create a video; a poster; a radio commercial; and a bitstrips comic that will make people aware of: your issue; what group(s) are trying to solve it; and how people can help	Write a letter to a government member who can address this issue and get government support; also send one to the paper to gain support from readers	Volunteer with or donate to a charity or other organization related to your issue; write journal reflection describing your experience.

STEP FIVE: Present your Journey to the class (Communication)

Briefly share with the class your issue and how you actively tried to help solve your issue.

DAILY CHECKLIST OF WORK PROGRESS

This is your Exit Card for each class. Complete and submit each day.

DAY ONE:

- I chose my issue. It is _____.
- I started to search for my sources.
- I have mostly completed my Research Organizer.

Teacher Signature:

Mark for today's progress: /3

DAY TWO:

- I have completed my Research Organizer.
- I have completed my Organization Organizer.
- I have completed my Canadian Involvement Organizer.

Teacher Signature:

Mark for today's progress: /3

DAY THREE:

- I have completed my Planning Sheet.
- I have chosen my Active Citizenship project. It will be _____.
- I have started to work on my Active Citizenship Project.

Teacher Signature:

Mark for today's progress: /3

DAY FOUR:

- I am working on completing my Active Citizenship Project.

Teacher Signature:

Mark for today's progress: /3

DAY FIVE:

- I have completed my Active Citizenship Project.
- I am preparing and practicing my presentation to the class.
- Prepare for final exam

Teacher Signature:

Mark for today's progress: /3

RESEARCH ORGANIZER

SOURCE ONE: *Circle:* website video movie song newspaper magazine blog forum Facebook

Title:

Facts you've gathered from this source (try to list 5):

SOURCE TWO: *Circle:* website video movie song newspaper magazine blog forum Facebook

Title:

Facts you've gathered from this source (try to list 5):

SOURCE THREE: *Circle:* website video movie song newspaper magazine blog forum Facebook

Title:

Facts you've gathered from this source (try to list 4):

ORGANIZATION ORGANIZER

Name of Organization:	Type of Organization: <i>circle</i> Charity Non-profit NGO Other:
Founder(s) of Organization:	Where are they based? When were they founded?
Mission/Goals	
Three Actual examples of things they've done to help improve your issue:	
How can people contribute/volunteer?	How can people donate?
How effective have they been at solving this issue?	

CANADIAN INVOLVEMENT

A Specific thing I've done to help

A Specific thing I've done to help

Name

A Specific thing I've done to help

A Specific thing I've done to help

Why or How I got involved

PLANNING SHEET

Is this a local, national or global issue, or a combination?	Which level(s) of government would be involved in supporting the solving of this issue?
Which of our local government representatives would you contact to discuss this issue?	Find his/her contact info and write it here.
Which political party, either provincial or federal, would be most supportive in helping with your issue?	Knowing their platforms, why would they support it?
Who is the current leader of this party?	How would you contact them?
Would the Charter of Rights and Freedoms help you in solving this issue? Explain why or why not.	
Would the UN and its organizations be able to help with your issue? Explain why or why not.	
Which organizations that are involved in helping to solve this issue have offices/branches in our area?	
Write their contact info here:	Suggest why they aren't available in our area
OR	
How can you assist them in our area?	How can you start one in our area?
OR	

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP PROJECT

OPTION ONE: Raise Awareness with a Media Campaign

Create all of the following:

- | a video—this will be 30-60 seconds (maximum of 5 minutes)
 - it may include you or not; it may just be graphics, pictures and/or music, or it can be live action, stop motion, cartoon, etc; any combination you want and are able to do
- | 1-3 poster of various sizes and orientations
 - Sizes = letter, legal, ledger or Bristol board, orientation is portrait or landscape; each should have a different design, but a consistent style (colours, fonts)
- | a radio commercial-- this will be 30-60 seconds (maximum of 5 minutes)
 - this can be written as a script or recorded as a real audio commercial; include music, sound effects, even sound bites from others
- | a comic—9-12 panels (or two pages)
 - you can use Bitstrips or Comicliffe (this will need your own illustrations which I can scan in for you); it can be serious or funny, whichever you think is appropriate to your topic

Your media must give information on:

- | your issue and what its major problems or concern are
- | what group(s) are trying to solve it, and how they are doing this
- | and how people can help, by providing contact or website information and encouraging them to get involved.

OPTION TWO: Gain Support through Letters to Government and Newspaper

Write a letter to a government member who can address this issue and get government support; also slight modify it to send one to the paper to gain support from readers. This should be at least 1 page, but not more than 2 pages.

You want to explain your issue and how they can give support (money, laws, time, etc.) to further your cause. You need to be persuasive and charming to convince them.

OPTION THREE: Personally Contribute through volunteering or donating

Volunteer with or donate to a charity or other organization related to your issue; write journal reflection describing your experience. This should be 1 page long and give us detail of what you did, how it directly and indirectly helped your cause, how it could inspire others, and how you felt about it.

You may have already donated your time or money to a cause related to your issue in the past 2 years that you may use for your journal.

PRESENTATION OF YOUR ISSUE AND PROJECT

You will very briefly present to the class the following (this does NOT need to be a slideshow):

- a brief explanation of your issue and why you chose it
- what organization(s) are trying to help (you may put their website up on the board to view)
- what you did to help improve this issue (show media, read part of letter, describe experience)
- why we should support or volunteer this organization to solve this issue