



# Investigating Issues in Your Community

Use this checklist to identify ways to research and investigate community issues, challenges, and needs, and then prepare to report your findings. Be sure to include multiple methods of investigation to get to the root of the problem.

## Research Methods

*Check the research methods that are appropriate for the project. Write notes in the space provided.*

- Interviews \_\_\_\_\_
- Focus groups \_\_\_\_\_
- Surveys \_\_\_\_\_
- Observations \_\_\_\_\_
- Texts to read (newspaper, blogs, books) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other documents \_\_\_\_\_
- Watching videos \_\_\_\_\_
- City records \_\_\_\_\_
- Demographic data \_\_\_\_\_
- Google Maps \_\_\_\_\_
- Listening to podcasts \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Planning Check! Are the research methods:

- ✓ Based on youth input?
- ✓ Appropriate for what you need to find out?
- ✓ Appropriate for learning objectives?
- ✓ Appropriate for the amount of time?
- ✓ Using quality information / sources?
- ✓ Mindful of contradictory information?
- ✓ Engaging, interesting, and sustainable?

## Analyzing Data and Reporting Findings

*Check the best ways to report your findings for the project.*

- Charts and graphs \_\_\_\_\_
- Written report \_\_\_\_\_
- PowerPoint presentation \_\_\_\_\_
- Verbal summary \_\_\_\_\_
- Visual displays (photographs, videos) \_\_\_\_\_
- Published writing (newspaper, blogs, books) \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

### Planning Check! Do the findings:

- ✓ Shed light on the root(s) of the problem?
- ✓ Lead to a possible solution?
- ✓ Reveal feasible ways for youth to get involved?
- ✓ Suggest potential community partners?

## Materials or Resources Needed

*Check the materials/resources needed for the project.*

- Computers, cameras, video cameras, or other technology \_\_\_\_\_
- Access to information (people, databases, records, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_
- Internet access \_\_\_\_\_
- Microphones or other equipment for interviews \_\_\_\_\_
- Safety supplies such as gloves, hard hats, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- People resources such as interpreters, guides, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- Office supplies \_\_\_\_\_

### Planning Check! Are materials needed to:

- ✓ Guide youth in making a project plan?
- ✓ Carry out the project work?
- ✓ Help youth document learning?
- ✓ Help youth set learning objectives?
- ✓ Establish agreements with or among youth, partners, or volunteers?
- ✓ Conduct a culminating event?
- ✓ Reflect or review?

