

**PLANNING GUIDE****5****Students Take Action****Working to Protect Young People**

Some Project Citizen student groups described in your book identified dangers to young people in their community. In response to these threats to child safety, students carefully researched and created a plan of action to present to business leaders and members of their local and state governments.

Which activities or conditions may pose a threat to young people in your community? Follow the steps below to identify a child safety problem, research it, and formulate a public policy solution.



1. Brainstorm with your classmates and teacher possible child safety problems in your community. Investigate ideas by researching online, checking local newspapers and news broadcasts, and interviewing family members on their opinions on each issue. Ask yourself the following questions:
  - Which activities or situations do the most people seem concerned about?
  - Which issues pose the greatest threat to children?
  - Which dangerous activities could we likely stop given the resources we have?
  - What support could we get (for example, better government enforcement of laws or an information campaign)?
2. In small groups, compare your preliminary research findings and weigh the issues. Then, as a class, come to a consensus on the child safety issue you think your class will be best able to address and resolve.
3. As a class, decide on a plan of action. Identify the goals you hope to achieve, most importantly protecting young people from 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 children's advocacy group, emergency room, or health care facility. 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 government leaders and possibly parents, 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 issue is a concern across your 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 the community.