

A Youth Guide to Making Your Voice Heard



SPOT THE PROBLEM

What is something in your community that is not working well?

- What is happening?
- Who does it affect?
- Who are the decision makers?
- What are the different opinions?



LEARN MORE

Find out more about the issue.

- Ask peers what they think
- Look up the topic to understand why the problem exists
- Listen and include those who are directly impacted
- Talk to people who disagree




IMAGINE SOLUTIONS

Think of ways you can fix the problem.

- What changes would help?
- What are some reasonable solutions?
- Include people who are directly impacted


TEAM UP

You don't have to do it alone.

- Talk to your peers
 - Ask for support from adults
 - Reach out to community organizations
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MAKE A PLAN

Decide how to share your idea.

- Write down the problem and solution.
 - Collect support through petitions, surveys, and media highlights.
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SHARE WITH DECISION MAKERS




Share your idea with the people who can make the change.

- This might be a state legislator, city official, school leader, or other community member.
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YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



| Level of Engagement | Action | What This Looks Like | How to Start |
|--|----------------------|--|--|
| Local  | Volunteer | Help organizations with causes that matter to you. | Volunteer at a food bank or for a local organization. |
| | Join a youth council | Join an advisory group where you can give input. | Apply for school or city youth councils. |
| | Organize locally | Organize a peer group on an issue that is important. | Start a petition, organize an event, or host a discussion. |
| | Attend meetings | Listen or speak at local public meetings. | Attend your local school board or city council meeting. |
| State  | Contact legislators | Share your opinions with state representatives. | Email or call your legislators about a bill. |
| | Submit testimony | Speak out publicly on a proposed bill. | Sign up to testify during a hearing. |
| | Attend a rally | Join an advocacy group for a rally. | Participate in the rally day at the capitol on education. |
| | Raise awareness | Talk to peers or share issues on social media. | Post a picture from a rally day and why you joined. |
| Federal  | Contact legislators | Meet with legislators or their staff to talk about an issue. | Schedule a meeting with a legislator. |
| | Attend town halls | Listen or speak at a town hall meeting. | Join a town hall meeting. |
| | Join advocacy groups | Volunteer with organizations who share your values. | Participate in a rally or phone banking event. |
| | Internships | Gain experience working in advocacy. | Apply for internships with a legislator or nonprofit. |
| All | Vote | Register and vote in elections. | Participate in a school student council election. |

Get involved. Make change.