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Description automatically generated with medium confidenceInvestigating Issues in Your Community

**Checklist**



**What to do:** Give this checklist to students as they begin a STEAM, civic learning, citizen science, service-learning, or entrepreneurial project. Explain any terms that aren’t familiar.

**Why it matters:** Capturing information through a variety of methods and sources can help students make a strong start and can help facilitators ensure that the project stays on track.

**Directions:** Use this checklist to identify ways to research and investigate community issues, challenges, and needs. It will also help you think about the best ways to report your findings.

# Research Methods

*Check the research methods you’ll use for the project. Write notes in the spaces provided.*

* Interviews
* Focus groups
* Surveys
* Observations
* Texts (newspapers, blogs, books)
* Other documents
* Videos
* City records
* Demographic data
* Google Maps
* Podcasts
* Other

**Planning Check!** Are the research methods:

* Appropriate for what you need to find out?
* Doable in the amount of time you have?
* Using quality information and sources?
* Mindful of contradictory information?
* 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 people to get involved?
* Suggest potential community partners?

# Materials or Resources Needed

*Check the items needed for the project.*

* Computers, cameras, video cameras,   
  etc.
* Access to information (e.g., from people, databases, records)
* Internet access
* Microphones/equipment for interviews \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Safety supplies such as gloves, hard hats, etc.
* People (e.g., interpreters, guides, experts)
* Office supplies

**Planning Check!** Are materials needed to:

* Guide you when making a project plan?
* Carry out the project work?
* Help you document, report, and share what you learn?
* Establish agreements with others?
* Conduct a showcase event at the end of the project?
* Reflect or review?

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