

What difference can I make?

There are lots of things individuals or small groups of people can do to make a difference. Now you've decided to do something you need to think about what you want to do and what you are able to do.

What do we want?

Discuss the timeline below and complete a copy of it using words and/or images. Consider the situation locally and globally.

Discuss whether the action is SMART using the following indicators:

S Specific – it can be clearly defined

M Measureable – any change can be measured

A Achievable – it is possible

R Realistic – it can happen given any constraints of money or people

T Time-bound – it is possible in the time available. E.g. one term.

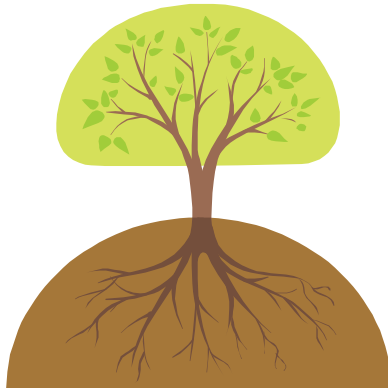
If the action is not SMART try to focus on one part of it that you can do.

The situation now is	What we want it to be like	What we are going to do
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Action tree

Draw a tree on a piece of flip chart paper or on the board. Make sure it has a big enough trunk, branches, fruits and roots to write on.

On the trunk of the tree write the specific issue you want to focus your action around e.g. use less paper. On the roots of the tree write down what the effects of the issue are – what are things which need to change? The branches are what you will do to change the situation and resources needed. The fruit is what the result of your action will be.



Use the tree as a basis for discussing the following questions:

- What are the local and global effects of each action?
- Whose power do we need to help us make the change?
- What can influence them?
- What can we do?

This information can be added to the tree or presented as a flow chart.

Action card ranking

Cut up and discuss the action cards on the worksheet – you can use the blank cards to add suggestions of your own.

Ask the pupils to arrange the 9 cards in a diamond pattern, with the action they think is the most effective at the top and the action they think is least effective at the bottom. The other cards are then placed in between as illustrated in the diagram below.

Consider which actions would have the biggest impact in school, the local area, country and world.

Which actions are most practical to do?

Remember:

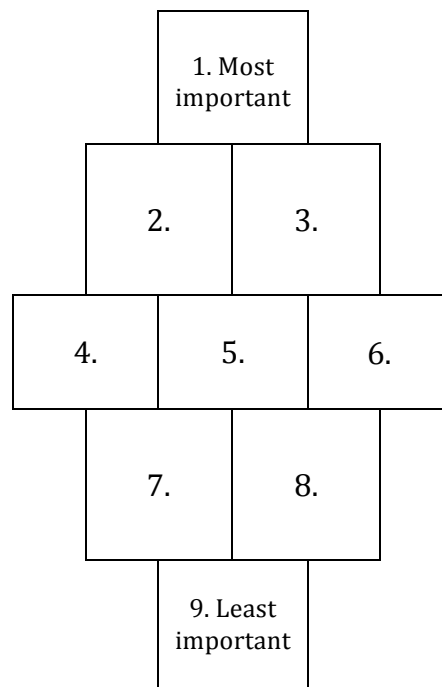
Think big. Start small.

Set realistic goals

Be prepared to work hard

Use the specific talents of people in your group

Get more people involved

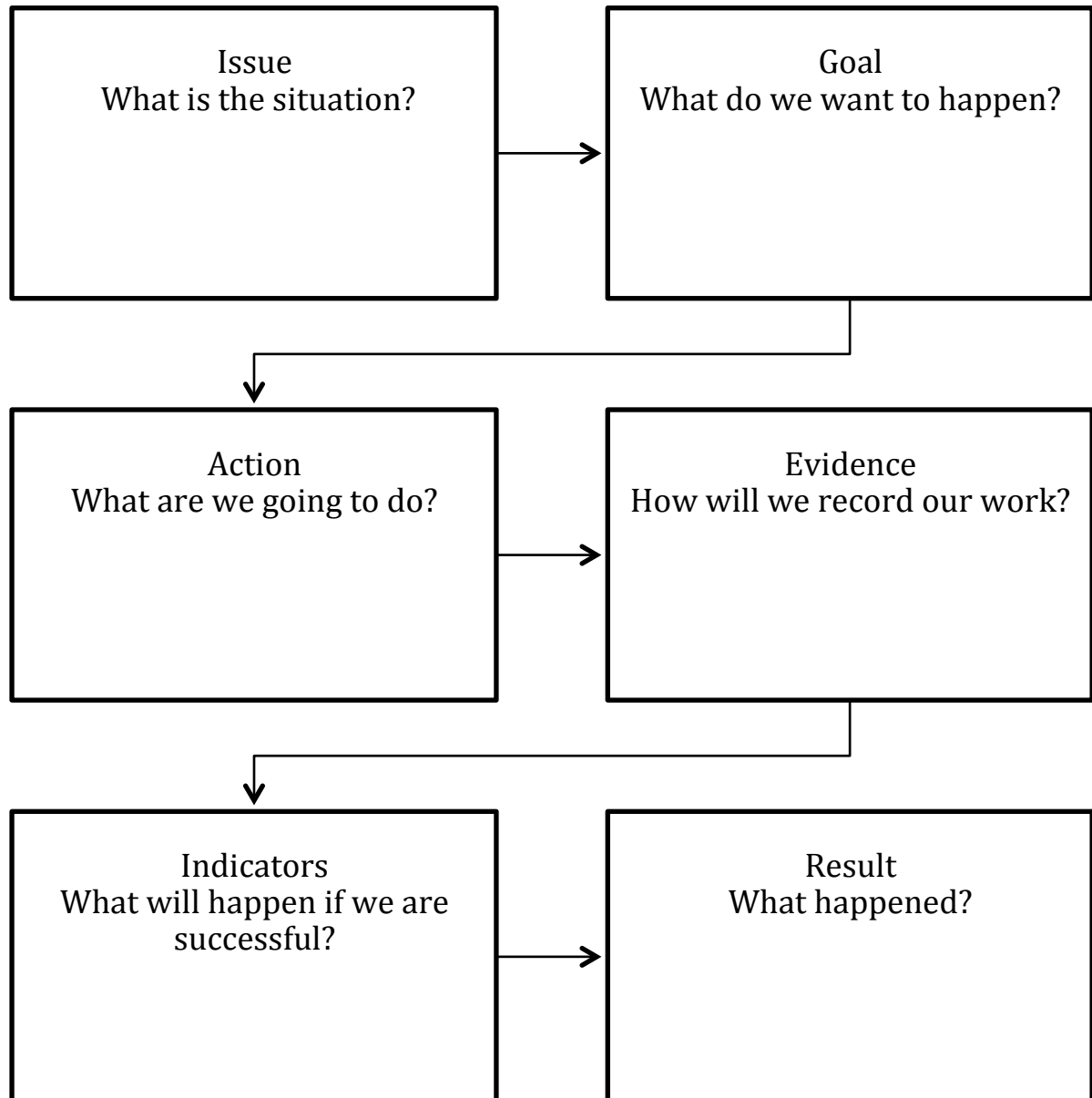


Action cards

<p>The best action is to put our arguments to (lobby) someone in a powerful position, e.g. write a letter or an e-mail, send a petition or an opinion survey, visit them.</p> <p>It could be your head teacher, MP, or someone from the council.</p>	<p>The best action is to find out which organisations can help us, and join their local, national or global campaigns.</p>	<p>The best action is to perform a play on how the issue affects people.</p>
<p>The best action is to invite a guest speaker into school to talk about the issue, or to be part of a debate.</p>	<p>The best action is to make a leaflet, poster or collage on the issue and display it to people in school and in the local community.</p>	<p>The best action is to make different choices about your life based on what you have learnt.</p>
<p>The best action is to make a video, audio or photograph presentation to provide discussion about the issue, and get people to debate it.</p>	<p>The best action is to raise money and donate it to a charity working on the issue.</p>	<p>The best action is to work with the press, e.g. talk on local radio, invite them to an event.</p>
<p>The best action is to educate your peers about what you have learnt.</p>	<p>The best action is to.....</p>	<p>The best action is to.....</p>

Action plan

Complete the action plan below before starting on an action – the results box will be filled in after the action has happened. Indicators could include things that would happen if the action is successful.



Which action?

If you have come up with a variety of ideas you might want to consider each one using the Which Action? Matrix. There is an empty column at the end for you to add your own question. When the matrix is complete choose which action is most feasible.

Action	How long will it take to plan?	How easy is it for us to do?	How much impact will the action have - locally and globally?	Who can help us?	Who might make it difficult for us?	

Impact matrix

When trying to decide which action to take it can be useful to use an impact matrix. This should identify the easiest actions with the largest impact.

	High impact	Medium impact	Low impact
Easy to do			
Moderate to do			
Hard to do			