

Get involved in your Assembly

Main activity

Brainstorming together

1. As a class, brainstorm a list of how people can make their voices heard about issues they care about.
2. As a class, brainstorm another list, this time of issues in and around your local community.

Groupwork

3. Split the class into groups, each focussing on a local issue/s identified in the brainstorm. For example, these focuses could be:



Parks and playgrounds



Public transport



Local shops



Libraries



Sport and recreation facilities



Rubbish and recycling

4. Ask each group to think of **one** issue related to their focus area. For example, if a group chooses parks and playgrounds, it could focus on a specific old playground that needs a refresh or on ways to make all playgrounds in the area more accessible to people for all people.
5. Ask students to create a short presentation about the chosen focus issue and why it is important. They can choose to create a poster, a protest sign, a video or slideshow, a social media post, or an email to an MLA.

Use the following prompts to help students with this task:

- What issue have you chosen and why?
- Who does your issue affect?
- What is the best way/s to bring attention to your issue?
- How will addressing your issue benefit the community?
- Are there any factors you should consider when addressing your issue?

For example: will addressing it cost money, will it take a long time, are there negatives to addressing it that might outweigh the positives?

Report back

6. Ask each group to share their presentation with the class. After all groups have presented, ask the class to rank each issue in order of most important to least important by voting on them.

Extension activity

7. Choose one of the top-rated issues from the class and write to your local MLAs, start a petition on the Assembly website, or choose another way to bring awareness to the issue in your local community.

Helpful links

These links are helpful starting points for the extension activity:

1. [\[ACT\] Webpage: Start a new petition \(parliament.act.gov.au\)](https://parliament.act.gov.au)
2. [\[ACT\] Webpage: Current members \(incl. contact details\) \(parliament.act.gov.au\)](https://parliament.act.gov.au)