Introduction

Welcome to the Guide To Action. It can help you turn your dreams into reality. This guide will provide you with the direction, inspiration and information you need so that you can effectively make the changes you want to see in the world. Good luck and remember to have fun!

Process Overview

1. REFLECT
Think about the changes you would like to see happen, whether they are in yourself, your school, your community, your country or even the world.

2. IDENTIFY
What are your interests and passions? What are the things that fascinate you? Identify the skills you have. What motivates you to take action?

3. GET INFORMED AND GET INSPIRED
Gather information about those things that interest you. By informing yourself you will be more prepared to make the change you want to see in the world. Seeking out sources of inspiration can give you great ideas and help you find the strength to make your visions into reality.

4. PLAN
Create a plan of action. You know where you want to go, now you need to know how to get there. Start with identifying your goal. There are often many ways to reach it. Consider what works for you, the resources you have and the commitment you want to make.

5. IMPLEMENT
Now that you have a plan you need to get started. Stay positive and focused. You may encounter obstacles along the way. That’s normal. Rely on yourself and gain strength from others. You often learn more from things that are difficult than those that are easy.

6. EVALUATE
It’s important to evaluate the progress you’ve made, the obstacles you’ve encountered and the lessons that you have learned. Try to understand what was successful and why. Also consider what you would do differently if you were to do it all over again.

Guide available at: www.takingitglobal.org/guidetoaction
Reflect

Take a moment to REFLECT on the world around you. Think about what you see. Imagine the world you would like to live in. Now what would you need to change in order for the world to come closer to your vision?

Can you think of some things you would like to change or improve?

About yourself?

About your school?

About your community?

About your country?

About the world?
Identify Your Passions

What is most important to you? What would motivate you to act? It is important to identify the issues that interest you because they will help to guide your approach to change.

Step 1: What issues are you passionate about?
With any initiative you undertake, it’s important to ensure that it’s something you feel passionate about. To get started create a list of issues that are important to you.

It could look something like this: | Now create a list of your own: | What are your top five?
---|---|---
education | | 1.
amimal rights | | 2.
pesticide use | | 3.
pollution | | 4.
HIV/AIDS | | 5.
landmines | | 6.
human rights | | 7.
child poverty |

Brainstorm! What else interests or concerns you?

On the Net:
From Albania to Zimbabwe, are you interested in knowing about the interests of other young people around the world? Visit: http://featuredmembers.takingitglobal.org

TIG Member Top Five:
According to a recent TakingITGlobal survey, the top 5 social issues of interest to youth include:
1. Health & HIV/AIDS
2. Peace & Conflict
3. Environment
4. Human Rights
5. Globalization

View the TakingITGlobal Role of Youth Survey: http://research.takingitglobal.org/roleofyouth/
Identify Your Potential

Step 2: What are your interests, attributes and abilities?
Now that you have identified your passions, let’s take a look at what you like to do and what you’re good at. Create your own list to identify these things. Think about your daily activities. Include everything you enjoy. Through doing the things you enjoy, you have developed attributes and abilities that will help you reach your full potential.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Things I like to do:</th>
<th>Words that describe me:</th>
<th>What I can do:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Playing on a sports team</td>
<td>• Responsible</td>
<td>• Write creatively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Repairing things</td>
<td>• Creative</td>
<td>• Speak publicly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Playing a musical instrument</td>
<td>• Sympathetic</td>
<td>• Design a web page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Having a part-time job</td>
<td>• Persistent</td>
<td>• Teach others</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Participating in school clubs</td>
<td>• Hard working</td>
<td>• Paint and draw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Writing for the school newspaper</td>
<td>• Outgoing</td>
<td>• Research on the internet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Drawing comics</td>
<td>• Dedicated</td>
<td>• Build things</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Meeting new people</td>
<td>• Insightful</td>
<td>• Speak a second language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Surfing the net</td>
<td>• Organized</td>
<td>• Motivate people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Combine your passion and your potential and see what you can do!
- Host a “Battle of the Bands” with all proceeds going toward a local charity
- Organize an art contest about human rights to create awareness in your community
- Arrange a food drive during the holiday season for a food bank in your neighbourhood.