

Planning

After learning about the project ideas, you will be asked to select one project to investigate further with a group of three to five students over many class sessions. Before beginning your project presentation, you must first create a project plan and get it approved by your teacher.

Read the descriptions of the five project ideas.

1. **Travel:** Community leaders want to encourage people from other areas to travel to your community on holiday. They want to see a presentation that would convince people from other areas to spend their time and money in your community.

Some questions to consider include:

- Why would visitors want to travel to your community? What makes your community different from other communities?
- What might visitors do in your community? Where would they stay? What should they eat?
- How much should they expect to spend?

2. **Park:** There is much excitement about a new park to be built in your community. The community leaders want to see a presentation with your recommendations about where the park should be built and what should be in the park.

Some questions to consider include:

- Might you want to survey the people in your community to collect their opinions? Which groups of people would you ask and why? What questions would you ask?
- Where should the new park be built? Why is that location a good place for a park?
- Where else might people want to build a park? Why might that place be not as good as the location you suggested?
- What should be in the park? A pond? A picnic area? A field to play sports? Playground equipment?

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3. **Disasters:** Many people are injured or die each year from natural disasters such as floods, fires, hurricanes, and earthquakes. Community leaders would like to see a presentation of your ideas about what your community can do to prepare for natural disasters.

Some questions to consider include:

- What natural disasters are most likely to happen in your community? Why?
 - What are the warning signs?
 - How can people plan in advance? What supplies should they have ready?
 - What should people do when disaster strikes?
4. Your community has changed in many ways since you were born, and just as many changes are likely to occur in the future. Community leaders would like to see a presentation that explains what changes your community will experience over the next 15 years.

Some questions to consider include:

- How has your community changed since the time you were born?
 - How is your community likely to change in the next few years?
 - What new or improved living conditions, transportation, communication, buildings, and services might be needed? Why?
5. **Problems:** As communities grow, issues such as traffic, pollution, overcrowding, and unemployment often arise. Community leaders would like to see a presentation that explains how to fix one of these problems.

Some questions to consider include:

- What is an important issue facing your community? Why is the issue a problem?
- What do you already know about the problem? What other information might you need to find out? Where might you find the information?
- What have people done in the past to solve the problem? Why is a new solution needed?

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Think about the five projects. Which ones are most interesting to you? Which ones might you already know something about? Listen to learn more about the process by which you will select a project to investigate further with others.

Once you know what project you will be working on, you must work with your group to create a plan that all of you can follow to complete your presentation. Discuss your answers to the following questions. Be certain to write your ideas on a sheet of paper.

1. Review the description of the project you will be working on, and rewrite the challenge in your own words. Then, discuss the questions for consideration.
2. What are the big ideas that you will address in your presentation? Which ones will you need to research and explore further?
3. Where will you get the information you need? What information might you search for in newspapers, books, or on the Internet? What people might you want to speak with?
4. How will you begin your presentation? What information might you put in the middle? How do you want your presentation to end?
5. Do you want to make a multimedia presentation with multimedia software, or would you rather create a presentation with word processing software. Why?
6. What smaller activities might you include as part of your big presentation? What pictures might you design in the paint program or the draw program? What flyers, posters, or other documents might you create in the word processing program? What worksheets and charts might you make in the spreadsheet program?
7. How will you entertain your audience? Might some members of your group act, sing, or dance? Might you hand out any printed materials for the audience to read?
8. Which group members are good at which software? Which group members would like to work on the different parts of your presentation? Based on your answers, which group members should be assigned to work on which tasks?
9. How long do you think group members will take to complete each of their assigned parts? Which parts need to be completed first? Which should come last?

Review your presentation plan. If any questions have not been answered, answer them now. Make any other desired changes as well. Remember to use the rubric as a guide as you plan, do, review, and share.

You must share your plan with your teacher who will want to hear your answers to the questions. Be prepared for your teacher to ask you additional questions as well. You might even be directed to do more planning and to share your revised plan before approval is given.