

## CAP Planner ■ Thinking it Through



As people work to address problems, they educate themselves about the issues and continually set and reset goals. As you attempt to solve a problem, you'll need to stay informed about it. Use your knowledge to set goals, plan, and be prepared to change your course of action along the way.

**Assignment:** Gather information about your issue and set some goals. You might use this worksheet more than once if your goals and strategies change.

### 1. Problem, issue, or policy you are working on. Revise or restate the problem if necessary.

**TIP:** As you dive deeper into CAP, you might need to rethink the way you describe the issue you are trying to address. This is a good thing. It means you are using critical thinking skills. For example, a CAP student started with the issue of "homelessness." After doing a little research and talking to people, she decided that for her CAP project, the issue is that homeless people do not feel safe in local shelters.

### 2. What is your goal? What would you like to see happen? Write at least one paragraph that states your goal. Describe what would be different if the problem or issue was resolved. Use specific examples. WHST.11-12.4

**TIP:** Review the impacts on people that you wrote about in your CAP Proposal.

**3. Ready, set, research! Remember the brainstorm you did about the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of an effective citizen in CAP Lesson 1? Now you are going to think about the knowledge you need to get started. (Think about: background/history, cause/effect, effects of problem on society, and who might support or oppose your position on this issue.)**

Develop at least two good research questions you would start with. For each question, do a bit of research to think of the places/people/resources that could help answer your question. Don't just guess. Try to actually find out where you could start looking for answers. WHST.11-12.7 C3-D1

TIP: Review what you wrote in your Proposal and pose questions that you think could be answered through research. (For CAP, research includes talking to people, reading articles, using websites, conducting surveys, and more.)

Question 1:

Question 1 Resources to start with:

Question 2:

Question 2 Resources to start with:

#### **4. CAP Sources**

When you are almost finished with CAP, you will be asked to share your top five most valuable sources. (You should use way more than five sources!) Start collecting them now so you won't have to backtrack.

List sources, if you have already used any, and write a brief description (1-3 sentences) about why the source was useful and any biases you noticed. RH.11-12.7, RH.11-12.8

5. What is your next civic action? Be specific. For example, "Call \_\_\_\_\_ to find out \_\_\_\_\_," or "Search the web to find \_\_\_\_\_." Be sure to explain the purpose of this action.

TIP: Be as specific as you can. The action should lead toward answering at least one of the questions you listed in #3 above.

6. Provide an approximate date of when you expect to complete your civic action(s).