

Switch up

Use less

By: Jennifer payan

Proposal

1. What problem, issue, or policy do you propose to work on?

The school should be more environmentally friendly, starting by switching polystyrene trays for something less hazardous such as biodegradable trays or reusable plastic trays.

2. Describe the problem and its effects on people.

Polystyrene is petroleum based plastic. Moreover it creates hazardous waste, creates air pollution and is a danger to the ozone layer. It contributes to global warming.

3. How is the problem or issue related to policy?

Going greener and switching out polystyrene is related to policy because being more environmentally safe is helping fix our global warming problem.

4. Why do you want to work on this? Why do you think it is important?

I want to work on getting more biodegradable material because we have to contribute into making this earth a better place to live in. if we set the example of being much greener maybe our community and other schools may follow.

5. What are the first few things you would do?

I would start off by doing research on how to switch from polystyrene and meet with the cafeteria manager.

Thinking It Through

1. Problem, issue, or policy you are working on:

Getting the school cafeteria to get biodegradable trays or reusable plastic trays would be a great change.

2. What is your goal? What would you like to see happen with this?

My goal is have the cafeteria switch from using hazardous polystyrene trays to using eco-friendly trays or reusable plastic trays. I would like to see a change in the cafeteria trays and

3. What do you need to know before you take your next steps?

After doing some research on my civic action plan, I found that there are other schools who have tried this; polystyrene is much cheaper than biodegradable trays. It takes money to switch. I think classmates might agree that polystyrene trays should be switched but there might be complications with administrations because of money issues.

Civic action #1

1. I am working on getting the school cafeteria to switch from polystyrene trays to something more environmentally safe like biodegradable trays or plastic reusable trays.
2. As my first civic, I did research on how our school can change into more environmental friendly trays for the cafeteria. I found that in order to get biodegradable trays, our school would have to spend money on. This did not get me closer to my goal since this would give us an economic set back. Now I would see what percentage of Bell Gardens high school thinks polystyrene trays are a waste. If I enough people back up my preposition, I could get the results I'm looking for.
3. The setbacks and facts I got from my research helped exemplify effective citizenship. I learned that polystyrene is the right term for Styrofoam (a brand) which showed my vocabulary skills.
4. My next civic action would now be to do a survey and find out how my students find foam plates useful or wasteful. I can go and fighting for my civic action with majority of school agreeing with me.

Civic action #2

1. Our school cafeteria should switch polystyrene to biodegradable trays or plastic trays which are more environmentally safe.
2. After doing research, I got 200 random people to do surveys on cafeteria trays I started by asking how many eat school lunch and 88% do and only 43% of them use the polystyrene trays and from those who do get trays, 37% find them useful; leaving 43% who found it a waste and 20% who did not care for them. Now that I have a good amount of students that back up my proposition, I can talk to the cafeteria managers and see what he has to say about my proposal.
3. My persuasive leadership skills and positive attitude helped me be an effective citizen.
4. My next civic action will be to meet with the cafeteria manager to present my proposal. Now that there is awareness of using foam trays, the cafeteria manager will put more consideration into it.

Civic action #3

1. Switching polystyrene trays for biodegradable or plastic trays. If we are not able to reach these goals maybe there is a way students use less polystyrene trays.
2. I had a meeting with the cafeteria manager. I brought up my proposal. He had heard of this project brought up before but it could not be done because it was the cheapest and fastest alternative. Biodegradable trays cost more and the plastic trays cost too much. I was looking for a way in which we can cut down on foam trays. Although he gave me great information, they were not what I was looking for. He gave me the number of his boss, Mrs. Chung, which will lead me to my next civic action.
3. When I went in for a meeting with the cafeteria manager with a positive attitude, looking for any information that could help me with my goal.
4. My next civic action is to call Victoria Chung, the cafeteria manager's boss. Hopefully she has more information on anything I can do to cut down on the use of polystyrene trays.

Civic action #4

1. After trying to convert polystyrene trays to inconvenient alternatives for the school, I want to find out of other ways we can reduce the use of foam trays.
2. I called Victoria Chung in hopes of getting a different answer than that of the cafeteria manager but she basically said the same thing. After this, I was stuck and talked with my government teacher. She suggested I look online for some type of green grant that would donate money in order for Bell Gardens high school to go green.
3. I used my research skills and communication skills that have made me an effective citizen. I was able to find out of another possibility towards getting a greener school by just communicating with those around me.
4. My next civil action plan will be a long term goal; trying to educate and advocate students of the negative effects of polystyrene.

Report

1. What problem, issue, or policy did you work on and what did you learn about it? I wanted to make Bell Gardens high school eco friendly by switching polystyrene trays for biodegradable trays or reusable plastic trays. Working on my civic action plan has taught me how to be an effective citizen. If we want something done in our community, having effective citizenship will help get your proposal done.
2. How did you try to impact this problem/issue/policy? I started to impact this issue by doing research. I then got students opinions on foam trays and got the cafeteria manager to listen to my concern. Although we were not able to do it, it brought up awareness.
3. What impact did you make? Although I was not able to make the transition from foam trays to eco friendly products, I got people in school to be aware of the dangers of polystyrene trays through surveys
4. What recommendations would you make to the next person who chose to work on this issue?

To who ever is working on this issue next, I advise that you have different alternatives to resolve the issue.

5. Make a list of knowledge, skills, issues, and attitudes you developed through the CAP experience

Knowledge: -who to go to with my concerns, be aware of policies, facts, and consequences following our civic action

Skills: I improved my research skills, communication skills and leadership.

Attitudes: positive attitude, patients, determination