



Reflect and discuss

Butts Out(side)



Great news! You and your problem-solving teammates are going to work together to find a strategy for addressing an environmental issue involving tobacco and cannabis waste.

Here's the problem:

Tobacco and cannabis are legal substances for adults to use. But consumers often discard their butts and roaches in ways that harm the environment and animals.

According to National Geographic (August 2019):

"Cigarette butts are the top plastic polluters, with an estimated two-thirds of the trillions of filters used each year tossed into the environment. A recent study found that cigarette butts inhibit plant growth. They also routinely get into waterways, and eventually oceans."

According to the B.C. SPCA:

"THC, the psychoactive component of pot, can cause "seizures, coma and even death" in pets." (CTV news report, May 28, 2020)

Here's the assignment:

Get to the root of it

- Start with the 5 W's (who, what, where, when, why)
- What else do you need to know? Where can you find answers?
- How can you use primary research to learn more? (e.g., surveys, field research)

Collect and collate

- Gather information
- Identify key facts, themes, audience and narrative
- Identify creative ways of keeping butts and roaches out of oceans and animals

Tip: Keep in mind that tobacco and cannabis are legal substances for adult use and that stigmatizing users is unlikely to promote behaviour change.

Share

- Present the highlights of your research and strategy to your peers

Communication Challenge!

Start a real-life initiative or campaign based on your strategy.

THANK YOU for caring about the environment and animals!



Butts Out(side)



This project requires youth to work together in teams to find a strategy for addressing an environmental issue involving tobacco and cannabis waste.

Activity steps

1. Divide the group into teams of up to 4 .
2. Tell the youth they will be working on a project that helps the environment and animals. If desired, you could read aloud the problem:

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3. Give each participant a **Butts out(side) project handout** and walk them through the assignment.
4. Remember to give participants a working timeline and date for sharing their presentations.