

23 MAD Ideas for Young People to Use to Make A Difference!

1. Create a series of small skits educating other young people about an issue. Perform them in front of the school at an assembly.
2. Create a workshop researched and presented by young people around an issue and invite parents and community members to participate.
3. Arrange a community photography competition on a theme of interest. Ask local business owners to donate a prize, charge a small entry fee and use the profits on a project that will benefit the community.
4. Hold a mini jazz concert in a local park, invite the community to come and listen to music and share stories of their lives with others.
5. Write a song about an issue, record it and ask the local radio station to play it for the community to hear.
6. Research another country and establish links with one of the schools including a pen-pal letter exchange program.
7. Organise a 'share a skill day' where parents nominate their special skill and share it with the class (or small groups).
8. Find out why eating fresh fruit is so important to human health. Organise a 'fruit' day where people eat (primarily) fruit all day. Dress up in the colour of your favourite fruit and paint fruit pictures on everyone's faces.
9. Invite a Nyungar elder to visit the school to discuss Indigenous customs and history. Ask them to share with the class a cultural activity that is important to them. Design a 'Welcome' sign acknowledging the local traditional owners.
10. Organise an art exhibition on a theme of interest. Display the art in a public area for the community to view.

11. Research philanthropic businesses and business people. Discuss why it is good for individuals and businesses that profit to make contributions to community activities. Write a letter to some that really stand out thanking them for their contribution and explaining to them why you think their actions are important.
12. Identify a wall that has been the target of graffiti. Organise to paint a mural that sends a positive message about the type of community you live in.
13. Participate in a TravelSmart to School program to reduce dependence on cars - share the information and environmental benefits with the broader community.
14. Identify an environmental area that needs attention. Invite a local member of an environmental action group (e.g. Friends of Crumpet Creek) to come to the class to discuss what steps would be the most appropriate to restore the area. Plan a day to restore the area and invite community members to participate.
15. Cook a meal for members of a senior citizens group. Ask them to share stories about their childhood and what the local area was like when they grew up.
16. Organise an 'alternative sport day' of wacky individual and team sports, award ribbons for participation and enthusiasm rather than athletic ability.
17. Organise a 'buddy day' where young people pair up with people from a different age group, year level, school or background and share stories about what you like and what makes you passionate.
18. Research different Australian native flora and fauna and create a water wise native garden in the school. Invite professionals or university students to visit the school to discuss how this small action can make a difference.
19. Invite a family (or families) that have migrated (or are refugees) from another country to Australia to talk to the class about their experience and why they have chosen Australia. Design posters that highlight the similarities between people with different backgrounds/cultures.
20. Create 'smile zones' in the local shopping area where people have to smile as they enter. Design funny masks and t-shirts so people will not be able to help themselves!

21. Research the cost the environment of shoppers using public bags. Promote this, and organise a campaign urging local retailers to achieve a 'plastic free' community.
22. Research the impact of using local chemical fertilisers on the local environment. Promote 'earth friendly' options in terms of gardening and lawn care.
23. Create and sell 'bully proof vests' - T-Shirts with a slogan that empowers the wearer against bullies.