

Mind Mapping: Identifying and Solving Root Causes to an Issue

This activity will help girls identify a community issue they care about and brainstorm a unique project by analyzing different ways they can address the issue.

Instructions:

1. Have girls write a community issue that they care about in a circle in the middle of the page. An example of a community issue is overcrowding at a local animal shelter.
2. Ask girls to brainstorm possible causes of the issue. Girls should write each cause in a smaller, outer circle and connect them to the inner circle (issue). These are the root causes of the issue. Some examples of the root cause of overcrowding at a local animal shelter may be a population of strays that are not spayed/neutered, inefficient shelter space/usage of space, or a high number of people surrendering their pet.
3. Tell girls to choose one of the causes (strays, space issues, surrenders) to address the issue (overcrowding). In our example, let's say girls chose inefficient shelter space/usage of space as their cause to the issue of overcrowding at a local animal shelter.
4. Ask girls to think of a way to solve the chosen cause. They should list their solution, how it'll help the community, and what steps are needed to complete it. In our example, one potential solution to inefficient shelter space/usage of space could be to clean and organize a messy storage closet to make space for more animal crates.
5. Use the issue, cause, solution, and steps to build and complete an awesome Take Action project!

