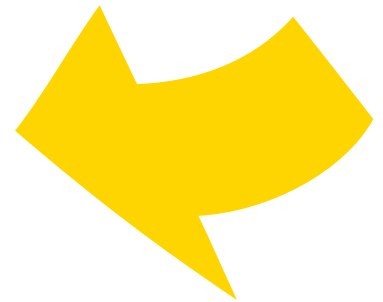


# Guide to Action



Simple Steps Toward Change // // // //



This Guide was created by young people who have worked to achieve their goals and initiate positive change in the world.

CREATED BY:

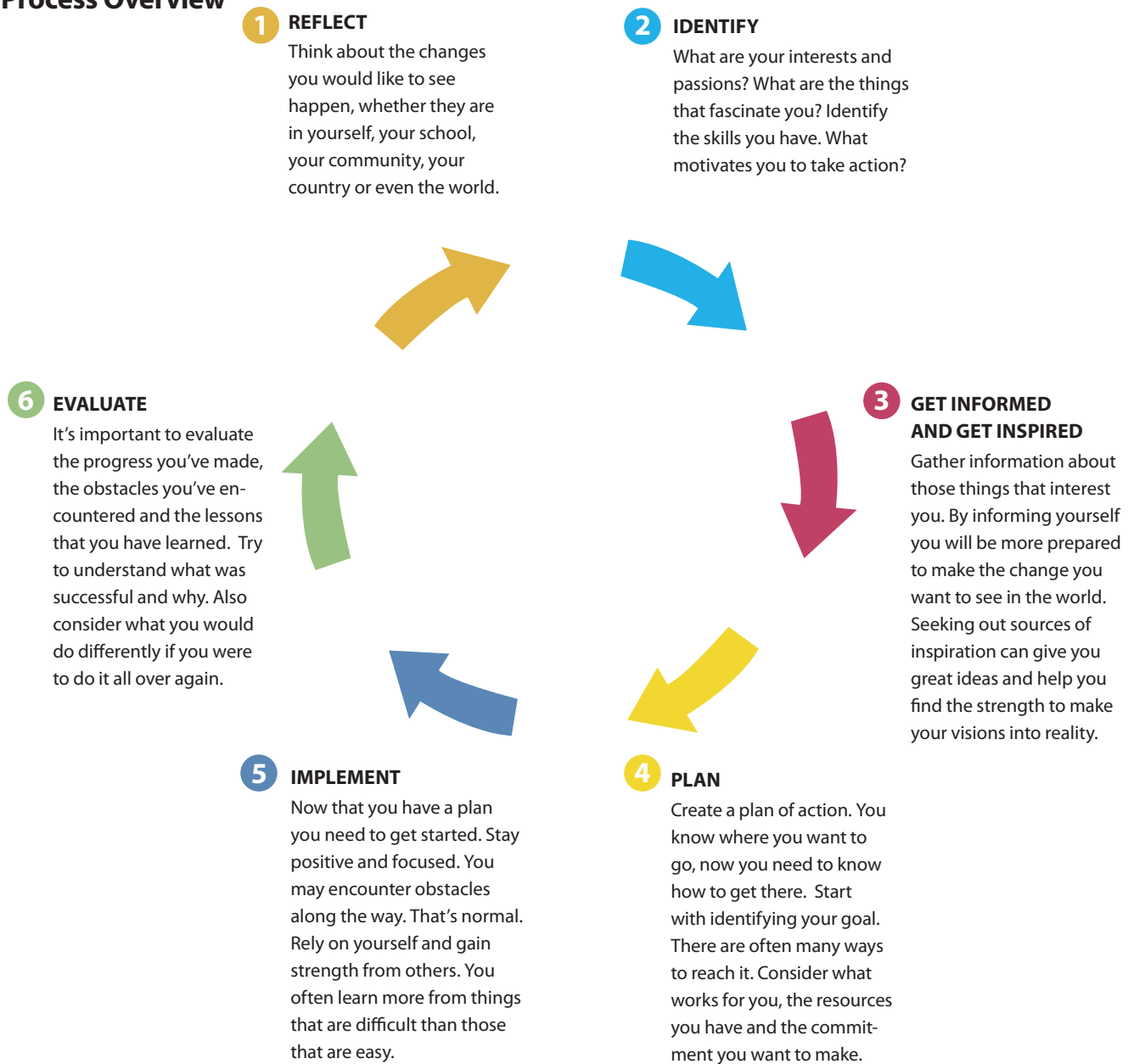
**TakingITGlobal**  
INSPIRE INFORM INVOLVE



## Introduction

Welcome to the Guide To Action. It can help you turn your dreams into reality. This guide will provide you with the direction, inspiration and information you need so that you can effectively make the changes you want to see in the world. Good luck and remember to have fun!

## Process Overview



## Reflect

Take a moment to REFLECT on the world around you. Think about what you see. Imagine the world you would like to live in. Now what would you need to change in order for the world to come closer to your vision?

### Can you think of some things you would like to change or improve?



About yourself?

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About your school?

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About your community?

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About your country?

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About the world?

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## Identify Your Passions

What is most important to you? What would motivate you to act? It is important to identify the issues that interest you because they will help to guide your approach to change.

### Step 1: What issues are you passionate about?

With any initiative you undertake, it's important to ensure that it's something you feel passionate about. To get started create a list of issues that are important to you.

**It could look something like this:**    **Now create a list of your own:**    **What are your top five?**

education	_____
animal rights	_____
pesticide use	_____
pollution	_____
HIV/AIDS	_____
landmines	_____
human rights	_____
child poverty	_____
_____	_____

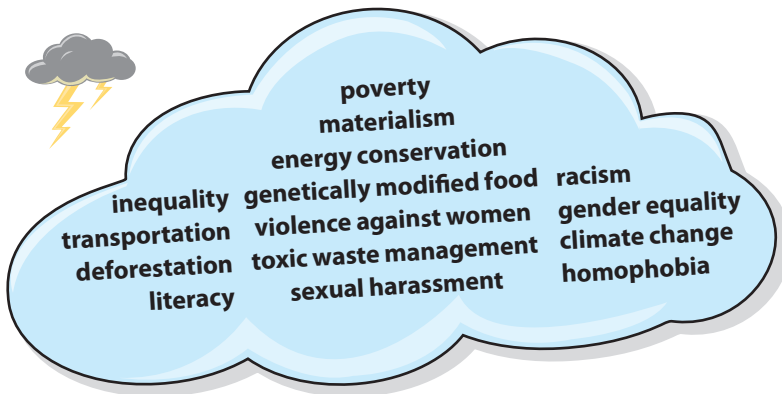
1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

#### TIG Member Top Five:

According to a recent TakingITGlobal survey, the top 5 social issues of interest to youth include:

1. Health & HIV/AIDS
2. Peace & Conflict
3. Environment
4. Human Rights
5. Globalization

### Brainstorm! What else interests or concerns you?



View the TakingITGlobal Role of Youth Survey:  
<http://research.takingitglobal.org/roleofyouth/>



#### On the Net:

From Albania to Zimbabwe, are you interested in knowing about the interests of other young people around the world? Visit: <http://featuredmembers.takingitglobal.org>

## Identify Your Potential

### Step 2: What are your interests, attributes and abilities?

Now that you have identified your passions, let's take a look at what you like to do and what you're good at. Create your own list to identify these things. Think about your daily activities. Include everything you enjoy. Through doing the things you enjoy, you have developed attributes and abilities that will help you reach your full potential.

#### Things I like to do:

- Playing on a sports team
- Repairing things
- Playing a musical instrument
- Having a part-time job
- Participating in school clubs
- Writing for the school newspaper
- Drawing comics
- Meeting new people
- Surfing the net



#### Things I like to do:

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#### Words that describe me:

- Responsible
- Creative
- Sympathetic
- Persistent
- Hard working
- Outgoing
- Dedicated
- Insightful
- Organized



#### Words that describe me:

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#### What I can do:

- Write creatively
- Speak publicly
- Design a web page
- Teach others
- Paint and draw
- Research on the internet
- Build things
- Speak a second language
- Motivate people



#### What I can do:

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**Combine your *passion* and your *potential* and see what you can do!**

- Host a "Battle of the Bands" with all proceeds going toward a local charity
- Organize an art contest about human rights to create awareness in your community
- Arrange a food drive during the holiday season for a food bank in your neighbourhood.





## Get Informed

Develop your knowledge and expertise by getting informed about the issues that concern you. This will allow you to be more effective and have a greater impact as you carry out the changes you want to see take place.

### Ask yourself

What do I want to learn more about?

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### Where can I get information?

- School or local library – Check out books, magazines, films, and more.
- Surf the Internet – Visit websites of interesting organizations, government sites, on-line newspapers and magazines. Be sure to evaluate the accuracy of the information you find on the internet. For search tips try: <http://connectedteacher.classroom.com/tips/searchhints.asp>
- Family, friends, teachers and coaches – There is no harm in asking. You may be surprised at what they know.

### Find five websites related to issues you want to learn more about. List them here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

### Unsure about calling someone you don't already know?



Try this:

- Hello my name is...
- Your name was given to me by...
- You don't know me, but I am interested to learn...
- I was wondering if you could help me in my research
- Perhaps you know someone who could help me?

### Who could you contact?

One way to get information is to call an expert or an organization to find out what you need to know.

### Name two people you could call to interview. List their names below:

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### On the Net:

Looking for someone that does work in your area of interest?

Try: <http://organizations.takingitglobal.org>

Learn more about global issues!

Visit: <http://understanding.takingitglobal.org>



## Get Inspired

Take a minute to think about who and what inspires you. Do you have a mentor? Do you have a hero? Is there someone in your life who you really respect or someone that represents something important to you?

1. What inspires you to take action?

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2. Who inspires you? e.g. artist, author, activist, community leader.

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### Meet inspiring people: Ivin from Zambia



“In pursuit of developing Information and Communications Technologies in my part of the country, I joined the iEARN Zambia team that is trying to connect Zambian schools to the internet. I have a dream that one day we are going to have a world connected together like one big family.”

Find two quotes that inspire you:

1. 

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2. 

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#### Sources of Inspiration:

- Read stories about inspirational young people
- Spend time outside and connect with nature
- Surf the Internet and look through inspirational sites
- Learn about new cultures
- Go to your local art gallery, museum or science centre
- Understand youth perspectives about current and ongoing issues.

**Find a young person taking action: <http://members.takingitglobal.org>**

**What motivated them to get involved and what issues are they involved with?**

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#### On the Net:

Are you an artist, or inspired by the arts?  
Visit TakingITGlobal's Global Gallery:  
<http://gallery.takingitglobal.org>



## Plan: Consider Taking Action

Identify the issue that you are most interested in taking action on.

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What have you learned about your topic?

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Now it is time to plan. How can you best use your skills and abilities? There are lots of ways to make a difference. You can work with others or alone. You can join an initiative or start one on your own.

Every action makes a difference.  
Here are some ideas to get you started...

### Possible actions:

- Reduce your energy consumption
- Join a socially beneficial organization
- Speak up when someone tells a racist joke
- Wear a positive message on your T-shirt
- Take part in organized peace marches and protests
- Buy Fair Trade certified products
- Create a website for a charity
- Run for Student Council
- Give your opinion on a radio "call in" show
- Educate your friends and get others interested

### Brainstorm 10 possible actions related to the issue you identified above:

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Circle the ideas you would be willing to implement now, and draw a star next to the ones you are willing to work toward.

## Plan: Implement Your Personal Action Plan

Everyday we make decisions that have and impact. How we treat other people, what we buy and the resources we use all have an effect. It is essential to set goals and always work toward them in order to ensure your impact is a positive one.

Keeping in mind the issue you identified, what goal can you work toward?

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### Think and act now

- Learn more about Human Rights, and where they are not being respected.
- Research corporations and find out if their actions are harming the environment. Should you buy their products?
- Evaluate the impact violent movies and video games have on society. Should you support such media?

### It's time to create your Action Plan. Fill out the chart below.

If your issue was environment your goal could be to reduce your energy use and your chart might look similar to this:

Steps toward achieving your goal	What help is needed?	Possible obstacles	How you will know you are successful?
Shut off the lights when I leave the room	Ask for reminders from family and friends	Forgetfulness and laziness	Money savings on the monthly electricity bill

Now that you have identified possible obstacles, how might you overcome them?

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### Helpful Hints

- Have a check-in buddy to bounce ideas off of
- Set weekly and monthly goals
- Reward yourself for achieving your goals
- Recruit a friend and set joint goals
- Be sure your objectives are realistic and measurable
- Don't give up!



## Plan: Your Group Project Plan

Perhaps you have decided that you would like to include other people in your efforts to create change. Why not plan a project or event?

**Project Mission:** Through this project, what do you want to achieve?

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**Project Ideas:**

- Organize a fund-raiser
- Put on an art show
- Form a school club
- Start a recycling campaign
- Organize a food drive

### Time to build a team

Work with other students and people in your community who share similar interests and passions.

### Team members

Who are they? What skills and experiences does each team member bring to the project?

#### Members

#### Skills and Experience

Members	Skills and Experience

### Raise awareness

Get publicity to let people know about your project! Word of mouth is one of the strongest marketing tools. Be enthusiastic! Let others know how and why they should get involved!

How will you promote your project or event? (i.e. posters, newspapers, radio, e-mails, etc.)

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

-Margaret Mead

Get advice and feedback from advisors and mentors with experience. Who can you consult that could support your initiative in some way (i.e. organizations, companies, teachers, coaches, parents, etc.)?

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## Plan: Group Project Plan continued...

### Break it down

You know your mission. Now, use the chart below to break your project down into specific activities. Completing these activities will ensure your project is a success.

If your goal is to promote energy conservation, your chart might look similar to this example:

Activity	Resources	Responsibilities	Deadline
create posters about energy conservation	art supplies / materials (paper, paint, markers)	Kareem: write content for posters Jessica & Kaleb: design and paint Michael: photocopy and post	May 1, 2004

### Follow-up

If you've planned a project with a distinct end you may want to follow-up with participants and organizers to see how they felt or have been affected by the event.

### Ways that young people change the world:

- As voices against injustice
- As promoters of environmental and social awareness
- As presenters at conferences, forums and summits
- As trainers, mentors, coaches and tutors
- As artists, musicians and actors
- As organizers of petitions, campaigns and protests
- As entrepreneurs creating businesses and jobs
- As volunteers and fund-raisers for charity
- As conscious consumers
- As responsible users of natural resources



#### On the Net:

Check out or join projects run by other youth.

Visit: <http://projects.takingitglobal.org>

Utilize online tools to support your efforts.

Visit: <http://groups.takingitglobal.org>



## Implement

Now that you have a plan it is time to implement it. You might encounter obstacles along the way. That's normal. Remember with strength and perseverance you can succeed. Stay focused, committed, enthusiastic and determined! Constantly surround yourself with positive influences and connect to helpful resources.

### Encountering problems

- UNDERSTAND the problem. You may need to gather information. It will also help to articulate the problem in your own words.
- BRAINSTORM possible solutions. It is useful to do this in a group. There are many creative ways to come up with possible solutions. You could draw a problem map.
- CHOOSE the best strategy from your list above and try to solve the problem. You may need to modify your plan depending on how the solution plays itself out.
- EVALUATE the outcome of the solution you choose. If you have the same or a similar problem in the future would you choose the same solution?

### Problem solving

What problems might you encounter as you implement your project?

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Think of three possible solutions for that problem.

1.

2.

3.

 "It's not that I'm so smart, it's just that I stay with problems longer." -Albert Einstein

## Evaluate

After you have completed your project or achieved your goals, you should evaluate the outcome.

What are some of the positive outcomes of your efforts? Were the results as you expected?

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What outcomes are you most proud of?

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Explain some problems you encountered while implementing your plan. Did you anticipate them?

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### Questions to ask yourself or discuss with your group:

- What did I learn from this whole experience?
- What was the ultimate result of the action I took?
- How was I successful?
- What would I have done differently?
- What was the most important thing I learned about myself and others?
- Now that I've made an impact, how can I sustain it?



Don't forget to congratulate yourself on having the courage and perseverance to see your idea through. It isn't easy initiating change in our own lives or in the world.

## Quick Guide to [www.TakingITGlobal.org](http://www.TakingITGlobal.org)

### Join the Community!

<http://join.takingitglobal.org>

### My Profile

<http://myprofile.takingitglobal.org>

- About Me – add your picture, bio, citizenship, languages, and travels
- Interests & IM – list your interests and messenger accounts
- TIG Involvements – summarizes your contributions to the TIG community



### Community

<http://community.takingitglobal.org>

- Updates – create your own online journal for others to see
- Discussions – contribute your thoughts to an on-going dialogue
- Monthly Themes – a vibrant look at pressing global issues
- TIG Groups – easily create e-mail based discussion groups
- Tell a Friend – tell your friends about TIG through this simple tool
- E-Cards – send virtual greetings to your friends
- Members – find members of TIG who you have things in common with
- Dispatch – read the TIG newsletter
- Country Sites – see local versions of the TIG site



### Opportunities

<http://opportunities.takingitglobal.org>

- Organizations – view and add youth-oriented organizations
- Events – view and add events in the events calendar
- Financial – view and add scholarships, internships, grants etc.



### Expression

<http://expression.takingitglobal.org>

- Global Gallery – contribute to a collection of cultural expressions of art
- Panorama Online Publication – read articles, and submit your own writing
- Inspire Group – read our monthly cultural newsletter



### Action

<http://action.takingitglobal.org>

- Projects – check out & start your own local community initiative
- Workshops – run a local event using the TIG Workshop kit
- Global Youth Service Day – participate in the next GYSD



### Voice

<http://voice.takingitglobal.org>

- Global Youth Platform – add your voice to the platform
- National Youth Council – learn about & join national youth councils
- UN Youth delegates – find out how to become a UN Youth Delegate



### Understanding

<http://understanding.takingitglobal.org>

- Discover 10 in-depth topics exploring important global issues
- Learn by reading articles and viewing flash animations

## What is TakingITGlobal?

TakingITGlobal (TIG) is an international organization, led by youth, empowered by technology. TIG is at the intersection of three major global trends - the international scope of major issues, the information and communications technology revolution, and the demographic force of young people. TIG brings together young people within international networks to collaborate on concrete projects addressing global problems and creating positive change.

“At the heart of the new generation’s approach is the collaborative style that is getting young minds together. This is the central tenant of the TakingITGlobal website, which helps young people around the world network and find out about worthy projects.”

-TIME Magazine

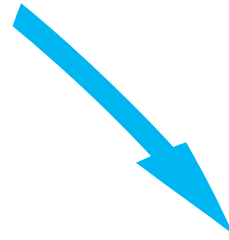
### The TakingITGlobal Web Site

TakingITGlobal.org is your gateway to:

- Connect with more than 39,000 members, from over 220 countries and territories, to share thoughts, perspectives and experiences!
- Express yourself. You can write articles, stories, poems, and read the works of others in our online publication, Panorama. You can also create an online art exhibit and browse through a collection of cultural expressions in the Global Gallery!
- Discover opportunities. Through our resource database, you can access organizations, events, and financial opportunities from around the world.
- Take action. Using resources such as the Projects System, Workshop Kit, and this Action Guide, TIG can help you initiate positive change!

<http://www.takingitglobal.org>





Guide available at: [www.takingitglobal.org/guidetoaction](http://www.takingitglobal.org/guidetoaction)

