

Litter Prevention Challenge Toolkit

Challenge Objective:

Identify a trash-prone location and design a creative intervention to reduce litter.

Challenge Overview:

Through this toolkit, you'll become a space-changer. You'll explore how litter affects the look and feel of a place, then use creativity to make a difference. You can...

- Scout a litter-prone location in your school or community
- Design a litter-focused intervention (signs, bins, mini installations, or educational art)
- Install your intervention temporarily or semi-permanently
- Reflect on whether your efforts influenced littering behaviors

Short on Time? Choose Your Path:



Scout:

Do the Research and Exploration steps only



Builder:

Focus on the Create and Action pieces



Designer:

Simply Research and Create an intervention plan idea



Reflector:

Skip to the Explore and Reflect steps

RESEARCH

Goal:

Understand how litter affects communities and human behavior.

Activity:

Choose one or more of these to start:

- **Watch or listen:** Search for videos on “litter hotspots,” “effects of litter on spaces,” or “community litter reduction programs.”
- **Read a Story:** Look for articles or posts about how signage, bins, or community campaigns reduced litter in local spaces.

Reflect:

- How does litter affect how people feel in a space?
- Do you think people respond more to reminders, peer behavior, or access to disposal options?



EXPLORE

Goal:

Identify and observe a litter-prone location.

Choose a site for your survey:

Schoolyard corner, playground, park bench, bus stop, or street corner.

Observe:

- How much litter do you see?
- Are there bins nearby? Are they full, empty, or missing?
- How are people using this space?
- How does this space make you feel?

Document:

- Take photos, sketch the area, and make notes with your phone or a notebook.



LEARN FROM AN EXPERT

Goal:

Connect with someone who understands litter, waste management, or the impacts on a community.

Choose One:

- **Interview:** Local park staff, city sanitation worker, or environmental educator.
- **Email:** Email your questions to one of the local experts above to gather their insights.

Sample Questions:

- How does litter make you feel about a space?
- What strategies or interventions have been effective at reducing litter?
- How can young people safely and effectively create change in their community?



DOCUMENT YOUR DESIGN

Goal:

Plan and design a litter-focused intervention.

Options include:

- Educational signs or posters near litter hotspots
- Painted or labeled bins to encourage proper disposal
- Mini installations made from recycled materials to raise awareness
- “Adopt-a-spot” campaigns or bin-monitoring projects

Include:

- A sketch or mock-up
- Materials list (poster board, paint, recycled supplies, tape, etc.)
- Who will help (friends, club, teacher)

Ensure that you get the appropriate permissions to install your design!



TAKE ACTION

Goal:

Install your intervention (temporary or semi-permanent), monitor its impact, and share with your community.

Before Installation:

Take photos and notes of the condition of your chosen site (can be the same you explored or a different litter-prone area!).

During Installation:

Record the process of installation through photos or a short video.

After Installation:

Observe the site daily/weekly. Note any changes in litter levels, behavior, or engagement with your intervention.

Possible final products to showcase your efforts:

- Post a before/after photo collage highlighting litter changes online.
- Put together a short video of your installation for your class or peers.
- Submit a reflection essay, blog post, or infographic on litter patterns and solutions to your school paper or a local publication.

REFLECTION

Ask yourself:

- Did people respond to your intervention? Did litter decrease?
- Did the space feel different to you after your intervention was installed?
- How could your approach be expanded to other spaces or neighborhoods?

Through installing more litter interventions, tracking changes, or sharing your findings with your community, you can help create cleaner spaces that feel safer, more welcoming, and more cared for.

