



Adult

Critical Issues

Part 1

A. Read the plans from four candidates for the next city election. Then match the candidates (1-4) with their priorities (a-d).

Crime is a big problem in our city. As mayor, I will focus on law and order. I will increase funding for the police department so we can hire more police officers. I will also increase the police force's powers.



Ernie Cullen

A good environment is important for everyone. We need to reduce the pollution in our city. As mayor, I will push for stronger laws against people and companies that pollute the water and air. I will also support developing more parks.



Joanna Leão

Many people have left our city because there are few interesting things to do. I will promote the building of a new library, museum, and art gallery. This will add culture to our city, so more people will want to stay or move here.



Jenny Lee

The biggest problem with our city is that it's hard to travel from one place to another. As mayor, I will add new bus lines and develop plans to build a subway. I will also increase funding for better roads to replace all our old roads.



Randall Parker

1. Ernie Cullen wants to
2. Jenny Lee wants to
3. Joanna Leão wants to
4. Randall Parker wants to

- a. reduce pollution. _____
- b. improve transportation. _____
- c. decrease crime. _____
- d. add more arts and culture. _____

B. In pairs, discuss the questions.

1. What are the pros of each candidate's plans?
2. What are the cons of each candidate's plans?
3. Which candidate would you vote for? Explain.



Part 2

A. Read the problems and how young people tried to solve them. Then complete the statements with information from the texts.

Cleaning the Oceans

These days, many people use plastic bags, bottles, and containers because they are cheap and many things are packaged in them. But it is not easy to recycle plastic, so people throw it away. The plastic ends up in people's **trash** and, later, in the ocean. But some people are trying to solve the problem. Boyan Slat was 16 years old when he noticed all the plastic in the ocean on a diving **vacation** in Greece. He went home to the Netherlands and researched the problem. He learned that by 2050, there may be more plastic in the oceans than fish. In 2013, he founded *The Ocean Cleanup*, a non-profit organization that develops technologies to remove plastic from the oceans. The organization also sells products made from recycled ocean trash.



One Cabbage at a Time

In many places in the USA, people have lost their jobs and even their homes. For people with low incomes, buying basic necessities like healthy food is very difficult, and often they go hungry. But some people are finding ways to help. When Katie Stagliano was in elementary school, a teacher gave her a cabbage plant for a school project. She planted it in her garden and it produced a cabbage that weighed **40 pounds**! Katie donated her cabbage to a soup kitchen to help feed homeless people in her community. When Katie saw how many hungry people there were, she realized they needed more help. She started an organization called *Katie's Krops*. It encourages children in the USA to grow fruits and vegetables to donate to people in need. Now, young people manage more than 100 gardens around the country that donate food to *Katie's Krops*.



trash
vacation
40 pounds



rubbish
holiday
18 kilos

1. Boyan Slat noticed there was a lot of _____ trash in the ocean.
2. Boyan started an organization that develops _____ to solve the problem.
3. Katie Stagliano noticed that there were many _____ people in her community.
4. Katie started an organization that encourages children to grow _____.

B. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.

1. What local problems do you see in your community (e.g., pollution, hunger)?
2. Is the local government doing anything to solve the problems? Do you think the solutions are effective?
3. Are local organizations doing anything to solve the problems? If so, what?



Part 3

A. Work in pairs. Choose a problem in your community that you think needs more support and make notes in the chart.

1. What is the problem in your community?	
2. What steps is the local government taking to help?	
3. Are these steps effective? Explain.	
4. What steps are local organizations taking to help?	
5. Are these steps effective? Explain.	
6. What other steps should we take to help?	
7. Will these steps be more effective? Explain.	

B. In pairs, prepare a presentation about the problem you chose in Activity A. Use the sentence frames to help you. Then join another pair and present your ideas.

_____ is a problem in our community.

The local government is / isn't helping. It is _____

These steps are / aren't effective because _____

Local organizations are / aren't helping. They are _____

These steps are / aren't effective because _____

Other things we can do to help include _____

These steps will be more effective because _____




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Extension

A. Look at the problem and solutions you identified in Part 3. Choose a person or organization that can help you solve the problem and write them an email. Include the following information:

- what the problem is
- who is helping with the problem now
- why more help is needed
- your proposed solution
- how the person or organization can help

From:	To:	
Subject:		