

## Plastic Waste Research Packet

**Group Members:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A research plan is an important tool for researchers. It tells people the topic of your research, why it is important, and what you hope the outcome will be. It also includes the research methods that you plan to use. For this project, you will focus on two types of data collection, interview and numeric data.

# INTERVIEW DATA COLLECTION PLAN

## Instructions for conducting an interview:

1. Write your questions in advance.
2. Practice asking your questions.
3. Ask permission to interview the person, to record the information they share, and to use this in your class assignment. Getting a person's consent is an important part of the research process.
4. Let the person you will be interviewing know the topic of your discussion. This will help them to be better prepared to answer your questions.
5. Let the person know it's fine to take a minute to think about each question before answering. Don't rush the person. Give them time to think.
6. Ask follow-up questions to get more information or clarify what was said. These can be new questions that you think of during the interview.
7. Have a way to record information during the interview, so you don't forget what the person has said.

## Tips for writing good interview questions:

- Make your questions simple and easy to understand. If a question has more than one part to it, try breaking the question up into multiple questions so that the person you're interviewing isn't trying to answer more than one question at a time.
- Try to avoid questions with yes/no answers, or at least minimize these kinds of questions. You're trying to get as much information as possible, and yes/no questions tend to be limited in what kinds of information they provide.
- Instead, ask open-ended questions that leave open the possibility of the person explaining their answer in greater depth. These tend to be questions that begin with *how* and *why*. But it is also fine to ask *who*, *what*, and *when* questions where necessary to get the information you need.

**Write your interview questions below (you should write at least five questions and no more than 10):**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_

# GEOSPATIAL DATA COLLECTION PLAN

Look carefully for pieces of plastic waste. Document your data below:

Brief description of the item	Location that you found it (be as precise as possible)

## GEOSPATIAL DATA ANALYSIS

1. What patterns do you see in the plastic waste you observed (e.g., size, color, type of plastic, location)?
  
2. Choose one piece of plastic waste that you collected to answer the following:
  - Draw a sketch of the plastic waste
  
  - Describe the item
  
  - Where did you find it?
  
  - What do you think would happen to this item if it was left where you found it for two weeks? Two months? Two years?
  
  - What do you think is the best way to dispose of this item?



## INTERVIEW DATA ANALYSIS

11. What are some of the most surprising things you heard people say?
12. What did you learn about your interview participants?
13. Are there any common themes that you can identify across the interviews?  
What are they?
14. What quotes do you think are important to share that help your school understand more about problems with plastic waste (no more than four quotes)?

## REPRESENT YOUR DATA

You will represent your data in a half page mini-infographic that can be part of your policy proposal brochure. You can use photographs, drawings, symbols, charts, maps, or any other way to clearly represent the data you collected. Be creative! The following **MUST** be included in your infographic:

\_\_\_ Area of the school that you collected geospatial data

\_\_\_ Number of pieces of plastic waste that you collected

\_\_\_ A summary of the geospatial data

\_\_\_ Number and description of interview participants

\_\_\_ Any themes that came out of the interviews

\_\_\_ 1-2 quotes that communicate important information about plastic waste at the school

\_\_\_ At least one image

You may also include anything else you think needs to be shared from the data you collected.

## PEER REVIEW

<b>Group #</b>	<b>What did this group represent well?</b>	<b>What could have been more clear?</b>	<b>What is a question you have about this group's data?</b>