



we're walking here nyc

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Step 2: Understanding the Numbers

Neighborhood Walk

Neighborhood Walk

PURPOSE

After collecting the data in Step One, taking a walk around your school will help the students get the large walking numbers in perspective. They can observe if the streets are safe and convenient for pedestrians and this will help them formulate a plan for their Public Service Announcement in Step 3.

TAKE YOUR WALK

1. Distribute copies of the neighborhood walk chart to each student. You can use this chart to record observations of the area and later determine what changes could be made to improve the streets for pedestrians, transit riders, and cyclists.
2. Give students the Neighborhood Walk handout, and take a walk with your students on the block directly around the school or a few blocks that are close by. You will probably want to scout out the area ahead of time. Ask the students to write their observations for each category, (for example, under the category "For Pedestrians" write down "Special striped crosswalk near school"). In the notes you want to encourage them to make suggestions (e.g. "Man with stroller can't get by our class because the sidewalk is too small, should be larger" "cars go too fast around the corners near the school, need speed hump").

The categories on the Neighborhood Walk Handout are: Beautification, For Pedestrians, Car Traffic Control and Calming, Public Transportation, For Cyclists, and Other. Be sure to

have the students fill out the two columns for each category, with their observations and any improvements they would like to see.

3. When you return from your walk, discuss how these observations and notes can inform how you use your data. If a lot of kids walk at your school, but the traffic seems to be going fast, what changes should be made? You might want to set aside some time for this discussion. It can get lively!

PREPARING FOR STEP THREE

- This lesson is designed to help inform the Public Service Announcement that your group will be making and submitting to the contest.
- You will want to refer to the handout and this observation session when you brainstorm for your PSA.

CONTENTS OF THIS KIT

- **Neighborhood Walk Handout:** Each student should get their own copy to record observations.

OTHER MATERIALS

You may need a few other materials, that are not provided in this kit, including:






- Clipboards or notebooks
- Pens or pencils
- A camera to record observations and show the kids in action

materials

- Step 1: Who's Walking Here?
- Step 2: Understanding the Numbers
- Step 3: Sharing your Message

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Neighborhood Walk

CATEGORY	OBSERVATIONS	SUGGESTIONS
<p>1 Beautification Measures <i>(tree pits, flowers, how does the block look?)</i></p> 		
<p>2 For Pedestrians <i>(crosswalks, signs, sidewalks, curbs)</i></p> 		
<p>3 Car Traffic Control and Calming <i>(traffic signals, signs, speed humps)</i></p> 		
<p>4 Public Transportation <i>(bus stops, subway entrances, how close are these to the school?)</i></p> 		
<p>5 For Cyclists <i>(are people on bikes able to get around easily and safely?)</i></p> 		
<p>6 Other <i>(things on the street that catch your eye?)</i></p> 