



Definitions

Problem:

A statement of something that is wrong that needs fixing (i.e. kids can't read at grade level)

Solution:

A clear description of the identified policy, practice, procedure or budget improvement that will resolve the defined problem

Cutting an Issue:

Selecting a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-Bound) proposal the organization can submit to an authority to move toward the solution

Steering Committee:

5-7 leaders who coordinate the work of a research committee and steer the research process to uncover a winnable solution to the community problem

Research Committee:

A group of leaders who participate in research meetings to understand a chosen problem, identify a solution, and propose an issue for action

Contact Us

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Justice Together's Research Guide

How to move from a
problem to an issue.



Expectations for a Research Committee Member:

- Attend monthly research committee meetings, where we strategize and make decisions together
- Attend as many research interviews with subject matter experts or study sessions as you like. There is no expectation that you attend all of these meetings.
- If you attend a research interview, you commit to attend a brief preparatory meeting directly before and a brief evaluation following the interview.
- As we announce future research interview meetings, we will ask you to RSVP each time, in order to allow us to plan accordingly.

3 Major Areas of Research

I. Understanding the Problem

December - January

- What is happening?
- To whom?
- How can the problem be measured?
- When did it start? What are the trends?
- What are some of the causes?

II. Identifying the Solutions

February - March

- What has been attempted locally to solve the problem?
 - What were the results?
 - Why was it cut or underfunded?
- What are the "best practices" out there?
- What have other places done to solve the problem?
 - Are the results replicable?
 - What would it cost?
- What will it take to win this?

III. Power Analysis

April

- Official(s)/Decision Maker(s)
 - Who has the ability to implement these solutions?
 - What are their self-interests?
- Allies
 - Which individuals/groups will be supportive of our issue?
 - Willing allies - related to the issue
 - Unwilling allies - related to the decision maker
- Opposition
 - Who benefits from the status quo?
 - Do they make money off of the current situation? How much?
- Our Organization
 - Do we have enough power (relative to the decision maker) to win?