



Tips for Completing Your Project Virtually

The Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project is a fun and engaging project that allows you to learn more about the environment, research issues specific to your community and collaborate with your peers to take action and address these issues.

This project was originally designed to be completed in teams in a classroom setting, but it can still be successfully completed in a virtual environment. This tip sheet will help you find ways to make the project fun, exciting and equally as successful even as you work with your teams remotely!

First, identify the tools you have.

An important first step in completing any project is knowing the tools you have to work with. This step may look very different now that you and your team are not in school together every day. But this is a great opportunity to use your imagination, think creatively and look for innovative online solutions to help you be successful in this virtual setting!

- 1** Is your school using an online video software for class meetings?
 - a. If your school is already using things like Zoom, Google Meet, Skype or other tools to conduct live, online classes, check with your teacher to see if you can use these for team meetings too. This can be a great way for you and your team to “get together” as you are conducting research, identifying solutions and developing your action plan.
 - 2** Are there places or ways you and your team can meet while practicing safe social distancing?
 - a. If there is an outdoor area in your community where you can set up appropriately spaced chairs and/or tables, this can be a great space for your team to meet and work together.
 - b. If your school has a large space they are using for any class gatherings, check with your teacher to see if you might be able to use this space to work together as a team.
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- 3** What other ways do you have to collaborate and keep in touch?
- There are many online collaboration tools you can use to share documents, videos and other items that are important for your project. Just a few examples are Google docs, Slack and Dropbox, but there are so many others you may find that work best for your team. Even creating a shared online calendar can help you manage deadlines and goals for your project.

Second, select project goals and action steps that work best in a virtual setting.

As you research environmental issues to select a topic, think about action steps that can work well in a virtual setting. For example:

- **Creating a product from recycled materials** – This type of project can involve multiple steps like collecting the recycled materials, breaking them down into component parts and then assembling them to create a final product. Since your team may be working remotely, each team member could be responsible for one step of the process and would only need to meet to hand off materials between steps.
- **Outdoor action steps** – Planting a community garden, cleaning a polluted area or creating community artwork can all be done outside while practicing safe social distancing.
- **Letter campaigns** – Once you have selected a topic with your team, you can write letters to your local, state and national representatives to encourage legislation supporting that topic. You can write the letters individually and compare later or even organize a “video hangout” to chat and eat snacks together while writing the letters. Just be sure not to get crumbs on the letters you will be sending!
- **Environmentally friendly cleaners** – You can find lots of recipes online to create cleaning products that use natural products. During your time at home, you and your teammates can put the products together and then work together to distribute them safely while practicing social distancing.

What other project ideas do you have? As you plan together in Lesson 2, work with your team to determine even more project ideas that work well in a virtual setting. Consider sharing them with your teacher and other students in your class.



Finally, always remember to work together!

Even though you may not always be together in person, you can still work together as a team. Consider the following tips:

- **Stay in touch!** Be sure to exchange contact information with your team members. Try to schedule regular times to discuss the work you have already done and what you have learned as a result.
- **Ask for help!** If you face a challenge that you just aren't sure how to deal with, ask your teacher, a family member or your peers for ideas. They may have a great solution that you just haven't thought of yet. The virtual setting can be overwhelming and everyone is working together to come up with new ways to work, so don't be afraid to ask others what they are doing.
- **Use your tools!** Rely on the tools you identified above and any others that you discover along the way. And when it is time to complete your Eco Diary, remember that we have a Google Slide template that can be completed remotely.

The Panasonic Student Eco Citizenship Project is an excellent way to learn about the environmental issues in your community and work together to address these issues. Whether you are doing this in a classroom, on your own at home or with a team working together virtually – the most important thing to remember is to have fun and work hard to create real and lasting change for the environment and the world! Have fun and good luck!
