

Evaluating Potential Solutions

Finding solutions for controversial issues or global challenges is a complex task that requires careful thinking. Use the following checklist to evaluate the quality of the solutions that your group is considering. Remember that the best research projects will review several potential solutions.

Name of Potential Solution:

1. How will your solution fix the problem we are studying in class? Can it be implemented everywhere, or will it only be effective for some people living in some places?
2. What is unique about your potential solution? Is it an idea that will catch the attention of leaders? Of businesses? Of individuals?
3. How difficult will it be to implement your solution? Are there obvious barriers that will cause your solution to fail, or is it likely that your solution will be an instant success? Why?
4. What kinds of costs will your solution carry? Will your suggestions be too expensive? Will your solution take too long to implement to be worthwhile?
5. Will your solution create any new problems? What are they likely to be? Are those new problems serious enough to make your solution essentially useless?
6. Is your solution something that individuals as well as towns, states, and countries can carry out on their own, or would large groups of partners need to work together? What kinds of groups would want to join together to see your solution succeed? Why?
7. What kinds of groups will naturally oppose your solution? Why? Are there legitimate reasons for their resistance? How will you address those concerns in your final proposal?
8. Are there any alternatives to the solution that you are studying? What are they? Would these alternatives be easier to implement? Would they carry fewer costs? Have fewer opponents?
9. Has your solution ever been implemented before? Where? What were the results? Do you have links to evidence of outcomes that you can share in your research project?