



Creating a survey

Part of auditing what is already happening around a particular issue in your school or community is to find out what people's behaviours are like. For example, you might undertake a simple audit of water usage in different buildings around your school, then go a step further. To understand why there are differences, you might ask staff and students in each classroom and area to complete a survey on their water use.

Before you decide to create a survey, there are a few key questions to ask yourself:

- 1. What is the purpose of your survey?**
 - Is it to capture people's actions, thoughts, or feelings?
 - Is it to find out more information on a subject?
- 2. Is a survey the best way to achieve your purpose?**
 - How many responses do you need for the information to be valuable? *(This will help you figure out what kind of survey you will use and how you will promote it.)*
 - How will you get people to respond to your survey?
 - How will you collate the information? What will you do with it once you have it?
- 3. What are the alternatives to a formal survey?**
 - Would it be easier to just talk to people and write down their responses?
 - Are there other ways to find out the information you're looking for?

These questions are not meant to completely discourage you from creating a survey but should help you think about the most effective use of your time in trying to gather information. You might answer each of these questions and find that a survey is definitely the best way to go about your project. If so, keep reading below!

Useful links and resources

There are numerous resources and tools available online which will help you design a good survey. For example:

- [Types of survey and examples](#)
- [Tips for creating a survey](#)
- [How to write good survey questions](#)
- [Creating a survey with Survey Monkey](#)
- [Creating a survey with Google Forms](#)