

# SPEAK, ACT, DO



## Research Guide for Students

**Knowledge is power - it enables people to find out about problems, their root causes, how they impact on people's lives and finally what can be done to make a change!**

### Sources:

These are the places that we find information.



Sources should be credible, as up to date as possible and trusted.

- Organisations like the United Nations, NGOs and Government websites are trusted sources and often contain research specifically undertaken by that organisation
- Newspapers can also be trusted sources too, but check the publication. Is it a tabloid? These often are not accurate and can be misleading. What does the author want you to think? News sites always have a bias so be aware of that when you are reading and extract the facts
- Academic articles are another great source of information and are written by people who do their own independent research. These are peer-reviewed which means that they are checked by other academics before being published
- Fake News is becoming an ever increasing problem when conducting research. Check out this handy guide here to help you spot it <https://www.webwise.ie/teachers/what-is-fake-news/>

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**Remember, if you don't trust a piece of information, it is always a good idea to double check it!**

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### Statistics:

Numbers don't always tell us the full story, but they are helpful.



- Use these to understand the extent of a problem
- Check what the statistic is telling you - is it telling you about a specific group of people? About the world? About a country? Could it be misleading in any way?

### Personal stories or examples:

These bring a topic to life.



- If you are finding out about something in your own community, go out and ask people about their experiences or what they think of something (this is also a good way to find out peoples attitude towards an issue too)
- For global issues, check out **Concern's blogs** to hear from communities that we are working with overseas
- Stories are a fantastic way of helping people relate to an issue. Learning out about a person or community develops empathy and a personal connection to a place or another person
- Social media is also a great way of finding out about different places around the world. It gives us an insight into a different place which might challenge your perception of a country or community

# Step by step guide to research!

1.

Decide which topic you want to find out more about!

**Check out the Speak Act Do action menu for ideas**

2.

Start doing your research! Gather facts, statistics, and stories together

You should aim to have at least ten pieces of information

3.

Look over your research. What are the main things that keep coming up?

Is there anything that really jumps out and shocks you?

Is there anything that you would like to know more about?

4.

**Go back and do more research if you need to!**

How is this issue impacting on people's lives?

What are people already doing to take action on this?

How is it affecting people in Ireland? And in countries that Concern are working in?

What are the root causes of this problem?

5.

**Start planning your action!**

Use your research to narrow down your focus. Choosing a small part of the problem will help people relate to it more

What do you want people to know?

What do you want people to do?