

Changing the World with Comic Strips

GOAL: To raise awareness about a problem and possible solutions.

In Ukraine, kids at the Children's Voice Independent Media Centre wrote and drew an educational comic book to spread the word about the important topic of HIV/AIDS prevention.

1. Think about a local or global problem that you would like to educate people about (like homelessness, bullying, fair trade, or global warming).
2. Brainstorm some possible solutions for that problem. (You don't have to solve the entire problem all at once, but you can take steps to make the situation better.)
3. Decide what message you would like to communicate about that problem and ways that people can try to solve it.
4. Use the questions below to help you create a story and communicate your message.
5. Practise drawing the characters you want to include in your story.
6. Make a rough sketch of your story and decide what characters and dialogue to include in each panel.
7. Use the panels on the next page to create your comic strip. Try to keep each panel simple and uncluttered. Leave some space for dialogue, too. (Tip: print the words first, and then draw a speech bubble around the words.)
8. Once you have finished, decide who you want to read your comic. Get help making copies and distribute it.

⇒ **Who will the characters be? What do they have to do with the problem you are writing about? What do they look like?**

⇒ **Where and when will your comic take place? What kind of setting would help you communicate your message?**

⇒ **How will you make it clear what problem you are writing about? Will the characters experience the problem? Will the characters talk about the problem?**

⇒ **How will you explore possible solutions for the problem? Will the characters solve the problem? Will the characters discuss possible solutions?**

⇒ **What will happen in your comic strip? Every comic needs a beginning, middle, and end. How will events help you communicate information about the problem and possible solutions?**



