

Observe, Judge, Act - OJA Process Worksheet

Observe

Step 1: Identify and reflect on your experience / reality.

What have you experienced, observed, and learned about the issue / concern?
How do you feel as a result of the experience? How does this touch you personally?

Step 2: Social Analysis

From what you know, why does this situation exist?

1. Political Factors (government policies, educational policies, etc.)
2. Economic Factors (jobs, banking practices, etc.)
3. Historic Factors (past discrimination practices)
4. Social Factors (stereotypes and prejudices, etc.)
5. What groups in the community / diocese are addressing this situation (direct services and social action)?
6. Who are the key actors related to this situation and what are their interests?
7. Other factors?

Judge

Step 1: Gospel Values

What do you believe that Jesus would have to say about this experience? What about other scriptures?

Step 2: Catholic Social Teaching

What key principles / lessons from Scripture and / or Catholic social teaching apply to this experience?

Act

Step 1: Problem v. Issue

Name a social problem related to this concern.

Name at least one issue related to this concern.

Note: A problem is a wide ranging concern (“drugs”) while an issue is a specific manifestation that is clearly concrete (“On weekdays, between 3 pm and 6 pm, teenagers sell drugs on the corner of Main St. and Fr. Kenney Way.”)

Step 2: Potential Response

How would you act to address the problem? The issue?

1. Direct Service
2. Social Action

Step 3: Identify “Vehicles for Action”

Identify “Vehicles for Action”, organized efforts that you can support and participate in, using the powers of numbers to address your problem / issue.

Step 4: Choose a “Vehicle for Action”

Choose a “Vehicle”, contact the organization, and begin to ACT!!!! In some cases, you may decide to create a new vehicle for action by building an organized effort and getting more people involved.

Excerpted from “From Faith to Action” by the National Pastoral Life Center.