Plan an E-Cigarette Survey

Do your peers understand the health risks of vaping? Use the steps below—writing your answers on a separate sheet of paper—to plan and conduct a survey about what your classmates know about e-cigarettes.

1. Find Your Research Focus
   What would you like to learn from your classmates? Write 3–5 clear and open-ended research focus questions (not “yes or no” questions).
   • Examples: What do my peers know about the health risks of e-cigarettes? What are other factors that may increase the chance or decrease the chance that a teen would try e-cigarettes or other tobacco products?

2. Write Survey Questions
   Choose one or two research focus questions from Step 1. On separate paper, write 5–10 specific and close-ended survey questions to get targeted answers from your peers.
   • Example: Questions should narrow in on specific, detailed responses. Rather than asking “What do you know about e-cigarettes?” you might ask, “Did you know most e-cigarettes contain nicotine, an addictive chemical?”

3. Make Predictions
   Using your knowledge of the news and your own experiences, predict the findings for each of your questions.

4. Collect Data
   Keeping it anonymous, share your survey with various types of teens to accurately represent the diversity of the whole population. In other words, you want a representative sample of teens.
   • Tip: The more people you include in your survey, the more reliable your results. (The number of people you survey is called your sample size.)

5. Analyze Your Data
   Organize your data in charts and graphs to see trends.
   • A dot plot shows the difference between individual groups.
   • A line graph represents change over time, and a scatter plot shows the relationship between two variables.
   • The mean is the average.
   • The standard deviation is how spread out the data is (variation).

6. Present Findings
   Create a presentation for your classmates in the form of a slideshow, a blog post, a short video clip, or a PSA campaign series. Be sure to include:
   • Your survey method
   • Text descriptions and visual representations of your data
   • Your conclusions (supported by your data) about the teen population and e-cigarettes