**Solving World Issues One Smartphone at a Time**

# **Overview**

The purpose of this activity is to familiarize students with the potential of online tools for problem-solving.

Students will be divided into teams of 3 to 5 people. As an in-class activity that can be completed for homework, each team will be assigned the same problem to solve using online tools on their smartphones. It can be a complex math problem that introduces new formulas they haven't been taught yet or an important social problem like hunger, poverty or the lack of privacy in the 21st century. Students will be encouraged to think outside the box and consult online resources (journal articles, videos, newspapers, etc.). Students will be given online tools such as the Google Suite, the Microsoft Suite or Span Nureva to assist them in putting all their ideas together as a team. Halfway through the activity, the class will briefly come together in order to share each team's findings.

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**Instructional Objectives**

* To realize the potential of creativity and open innovation for problem-solving
* To learn to evaluate the ideas of their peers and give constructive feedback
* To become aware of new pedagogical ways to use smartphones

# **Benefits**

* The students practice their skills in teamwork and become acquainted with different apps and technology
* They become more familiar with current world issues and/or complex problems of interest to them (how to reduce traffic jams in Montreal, how to stop the destruction of the Amazon Forest, how to find an eco-friendly alternative to plastic, etc.)

# **Challenges**

* If using Google Suite, those students with iPhones will need to download the google-relevant app and be logged on to their gmail to access all the features (1)
* When sending a link for a Google Suite document via MIO, students with iPhones will have a harder time accessing the document (2)

# **Tip**

* For challenge (2) once the student has installed the goolge-relevant app, the student must click on the option ‘open with Safari’ so as to be able to use all the features like sharing hacks and editing

