

The Virtual Bronze Exploration

Thank you for accepting this challenge! You are about to attempt something that is entirely new to the world of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award - a virtual Adventurous Journey! Due to the restrictions in place in many countries to help stop the spread of COVID-19, we have developed this Research Project opportunity.

This re-imagined virtual exploration will help to develop the critical thinking, research, and reflection skills that underpin the aim of the Adventurous Journey section of the Award. Please read the instructions carefully and use the support and mentorship offered by your Award Leader.

The aim is to complete and document a research project that is relevant to one of the following areas:

- a. Covid-19 and its impacts on society
- b. Covid-19 and its impacts on the environment
- c. The [United Nations Sustainable Development goals](#)

The topic should be one that feels relevant and personal to you. This represents the experiential component of the Adventurous Journey section's outcomes and benefits.

You must document your Research Project in a final report IN A FORMAT OF YOUR CHOOSING that demonstrates your research question, thesis, evidence-based arguments, and conclusion with a call to action. **A copy of this final report must be uploaded to your ORB and submitted to your Award Leader. This may be a paper, video, creative narrative, artistic depiction, podcast episode— and the list goes on! For guidance, the research included should be the equivalent of a 6-8 page paper.**

The Research Project as set out in this Virtual Bronze Exploration should be a form of "[Action Research](#)." This is simply a way of systematically thinking about what goes on in your school, workplace, local or global communities, and how you might develop interventions or gather data that will help you improve the experiences of the individuals within those places.

Teamwork is also an important element of the Adventurous Journey. When your research project is complete, you will present it to a group of at least three peers and identify at least one thing you all can commit to doing together to address the issues raised in your project, e.g. service project for populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19, commitment to driving less and walking more even when more in-person activities resume, volunteering together virtually for the United Nations, etc.

The product of your Research Project should include the following:

1. [Research Question](#) with an explanation of your personal connection to the topic
2. [Thesis Statement](#)
3. Arguments supporting your thesis statement with [evidence](#) (at least 8 citations to [credible sources](#))
4. Conclusion with recommendations for action
5. Presentation to peer group with the team's commitment to action

Below are the steps to complete your Virtual Bronze Exploration:

Step 1: Select a topic and research question. Consider how you will research it. Submit to your Award Leader a one paragraph synopsis of your intended research project for approval and feedback. Once your Award Leader responds and provides feedback, you have **6 weeks** until your final research project is due.

Step 2: Begin researching your topic. Collect evidence and create a thesis based on your analysis. Begin formulating your supporting arguments, conclusion, and call to action.

Step 3: Determine the format in which you will present your final product. Create your final product.

Step 4: Present the findings of your research project to a group of your peers. Together, identify one action based on your recommendations that you all can commit to together. Make a plan to do so and add this to your final research project as an addendum (can be a short write up attached, an additional video or recording, etc.)

Step 5: Submit all of your work to your Award Leader. Your Award Leader will schedule a time to meet with you to discuss.

Step 6: Enter your information into the Online Record Book.

- A. Preparation and Training: The date you complete your Preparation and Training is when your Award Leader provides approval of your one paragraph synopsis. The applicable training items that you should mark as 'complete' in the Online Record Book are:*
- i. Appreciating the culture within the journey's environment
 - ii. Competency in the mode of travel (*in this case, competency in research strategy*)
 - iii. Necessary equipment and how to use it (*in this case, equipment is data and research used for your project*)
 - iv. Observation and recording skills
 - v. Team building and leadership training
 - vi. Understanding of the Adventurous Journey
 - vii. Understanding the impact of the journey on the environment

***The other training items listed can be left blank.**

- B. Practice Journey: The Practice Journey can be waived at the Bronze level when completing this virtual exploration. Your Award Leader will add information for the waiver on their end of the ORB, and you will push it forward to assessor approval and Award Leader approval.
- C. Qualifying Journey: You will enter the title of your research project and the research question you explore as the aim. The time period for the trip will start when you receive approval of the project from your Award Leader and end when you meet with your Award Leader to discuss your final product. You will upload evidence of your final product to the AJ section of the ORB. Your AJ Supervisor and Assessor will both be your Award Leader.