

CITIZEN SCIENCE IN THE CLASSROOM: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Do you want to engage school audiences in your citizen science project? Or are you a dab hand at engaging school students in citizen science?

Citizen science offers rich opportunities to extend science teaching and engage young people in authentic research. The incorporation of citizen science into classrooms is not however, without obstacles. In this workshop we will share insights from our own engagement with schools to stimulate a rich and collaborative discussion around the integration of citizen science into classrooms.

If you are a) leading or working in a citizen science project b) working in education or c) interested in ways to combine citizen science and learning, this workshop is for you! By the end of this workshop, participants will gain new tools and knowledge and join a collaborative network supporting the introduction of citizen science projects to the classroom.

The workshop will focus on:

- Designing engaging projects/activities for young people.
- Designing curriculum aligned projects/activities for schools.
- The logistics of partnering with teachers.
- The importance of building genuine and supportive two-way partnerships.
- Differences between student stages and considerations for pedagogical design.

SCOPE group members have been engaging with senior high school students through the Breaking Good Project since 2015. In 2020, we expanded into Year 9 and 10 classrooms through our online E\$SENTIAL MEDICINE\$ workshops, and we are now working to co-create an independent, teacher-lead Year 9 unit around the E\$SENTIAL MEDICINE\$ citizen science challenges. Most recently, the SCOPE group initiated Learning By Doing, a multidisciplinary research team funded by the NSW Education Department that is focused on the design, implementation and assessment of citizen science learning programs and frameworks for primary and secondary students.