



Second Strike

**Resource Kits for Student
Representative Councils**



Audit the SRC



“How well are you *really* doing?”



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Special thanks to Roger Holdsworth of *Connect* for allowing us to use an article written by Roger and printed in *Connect* titled:

“How Do We Know What We Have Achieved?”

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Acknowledgements:

First and foremost, thanks go to the students of Student Representative Councils, Student Unions, Student Parliaments, Junior Student Councils, Student Forums and all the other names student representative groups go by. If it were not for your brilliant creativity and your willingness to share your ideas and stories, this kit would be considerably thinner.

Secondly, thanks are due to all students AND Teacher Advisers involved with SRCs around Australia. Yours is possibly the hardest job in the school and we deeply appreciate that commitment.

Thirdly our thanks go to schools who are willing to try new things. These are schools that make being on an SRC a fun thing because they do not construct meaningless barriers. These are the test grounds for SRC ideas, which more timid schools then take on as their own.

Last but by no means least, our thanks go to Prudence Meggitt, who has spent hours of time editing these kits, and has taught us how to use a comma properly.

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Auditing:

The very first thing that must be said here is that auditing is only a scary word if you're doing something wrong or you exist in the cut-throat world of big business. The word actually means evaluating your methods, progress, strengths and weaknesses and checking that all your resources went where they were meant to. At Second Strike we get excited when the word audit is used because to us it represents opportunities to improve and change the way we work if will bring better outcomes. People often fear the word audit because they know they will be shown something about themselves that could be improved – many people don't take criticism well. But you and your SRC will!

The second thing that must be said is that the conclusions drawn by this kit may not be suitable for you. We wrote this kit because we rejected most of the measurements of success given to us by others. We don't value the same things as some traditional evaluation processes have. You may disagree with the direction we are leading you and we expect you to challenge it and disregard the conclusions we point to IF and only IF you have good reason to do so AND if you arrive at other helpful conclusions.

Chambers Concise Dictionary

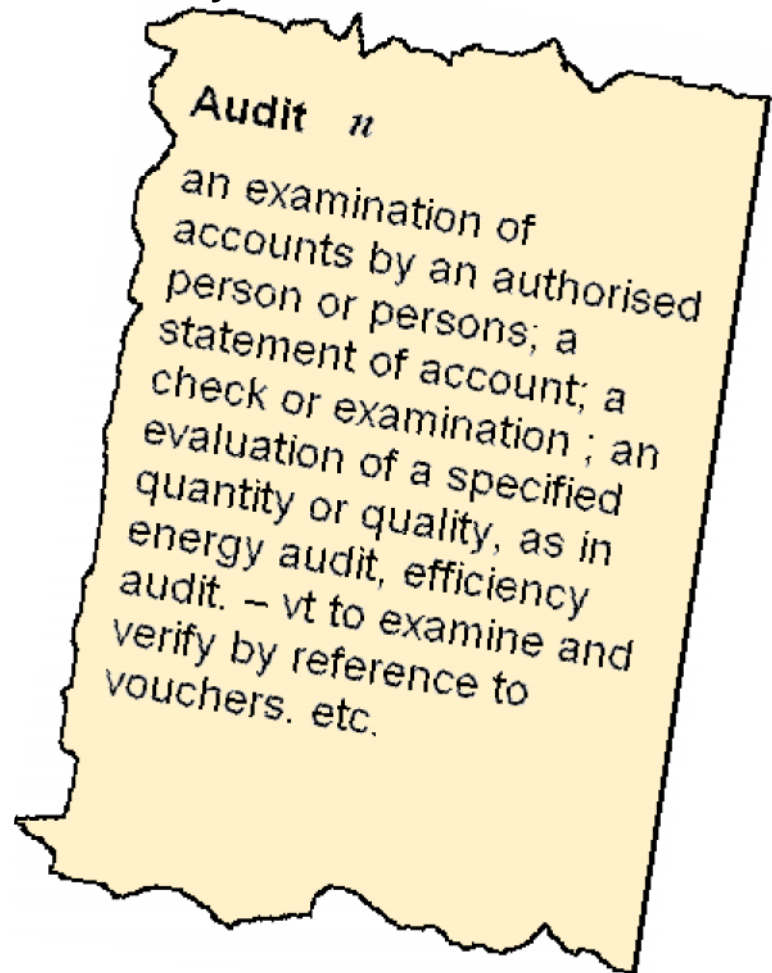
Translation:

For an SRC this means that an audit is the process of checking all your records and confirming everything you've done:

- The money you said you would spend was spent correctly
- The things you bought/own are where they are
- Things you said you would do were done

It is also an examination of *how* you do things. Are you wasting a lot of time that could be better spent? Are you focused on the wrong things? Are you going about your projects in a negative or unhelpful method?

Could you be better? Faster? Stronger? More popular? More independent?



Audit Your SRC

This audit is not designed to make you feel bad about your SRC's performance or to make comment on it in any way. This audit is designed to show you where your SRC is currently at and give an indication of where you might take the SRC next.

A truly successful Student Council will have at least 70% of the following symptoms:

- All student representatives are elected by students, with no teacher input or interference.
- Run elections during term 3 or 4 of the previous year. The SRC is functional during term four and immediately on return to school the following year.
- Regular meetings, chaired by an elected student leader. Students prepare and distribute the minutes and agenda.
- Has a logo, mascot, possibly specific SRC colours as part of the identity.
- Has undergone some training at some point of the year.
- Teacher Adviser has attended an SRC professional development course.
- Attends inter-SRC conferences.
- Has a constitution that has been written by students, is regularly maintained and is known by all the students in the SRC.
- Has at least 6 methods of regular communication with the rest of the student body. At least two of these need to be two-way communication.
- Runs a student survey of some type at least twice a year.

- Has pictures of the representatives displayed on the wall somewhere.
- Is considered more important than school captains/prefects.
- Has active representation on school council and possibly even some of the sub-committees of school council.
- Runs at least one major event every year.
- Raises funds for its own use, not just charities.
- Tries to change school policy other than just the uniform.
- Has a designated SRC room/office.
- Representatives can access resources in the school such as phone, photocopying and stationary.
- Regularly meets with the school administration team.
- Involves other students through the year, especially those who stood for election to the SRC but were unsuccessful.
- Has successfully negotiated with the school for some change that initially the school administration did not want to occur.
- SRC Members enjoy working on the SRC and describe it as 'fun'.
- Hosts celebrations just for SRC members and invited guests after significant achievements or as team bonding exercises. Hosts an end of year celebration for student leaders.
- Has a serious presence at the end of assembly for students and parents, and not just in a parking attendant or usher capacity.