

Create Change in your Community

Grade Level: 4-12

Time: Two 45-minute sessions

Objectives:

- Become familiar with civic responsibility
- Analyze and develop responses to newsworthy events and issues.
- Be capable of persuasively defending ideas.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Speech

Materials/Resources: Classroom email or envelopes and stamps, Internet access, newspapers.

Procedure:

- 1) Choose an article or two from the newspaper or an online news site and discuss what makes that person or event newsworthy.
- 2) Have students identify newsworthy events/individuals related to their issue by looking through the newspaper or online news sites and find out how to contact them by going to TellThemNow.com and searching for the newsmaker and reporter.
- 3) In teams or individually, have the students compose a letter to the newsmaker (that will also be sent to the reporter) informing them of the issue their team is working on. Proof the letters. (Letters should include a request for a reply and information about your class).
- 4) Students submit their letters via mail or the Internet (if using the Internet students can send messages through www.TellThemNow.com. It has directions that will lead them through sending the message).
- 5) Students report to the rest of the class on the responses.

Reflection:

- Students report back to class with their replies as well as their reactions.
- Students write a journal entry on one of the following topics:
 - What is my civic responsibility?
 - How can I change things in my community?
 - How does the Internet provide interaction with newsmakers?
 - What makes an event newsworthy?

Assessment:

1. Journal Entry
2. Presentation of responses.

Source: Adapted from Susan Beard, Educator's Reference Desk Lesson Plan Lesson Plan #:AELP-INT0139