

Interest Development Centers

Grade Level: All

Time: N/A

Purpose: This activity provides students with an opportunity to explore various aspects of the Public Achievement program on an individual level. It is an invitation to learning—provoking curiosity and stimulating interest.

Procedure:

- 1) The teacher will create an interest development center in a section of the classroom. This is not like a traditional learning center that focuses on mastering a curricular skill. Instead, it focuses on developing a student's interest in the subject matter presented. Students can use it when their other work is completed, and the teacher should set aside some class time to introduce it and allow all students to explore.
- 2) Many teachers find it works best to use a poster board trifold as an outside shell. Graphics, pictures, and catchy titles can be added to make it more inviting. Laminating the various activity and research suggestions will extend the life of the center and allow it to be shared with other teachers.
- 3) One way to do this is to include a wide range of manipulative materials, articles, books, films, photographs, clippings, etc.
- 4) Another great piece to include is an exposure to various types of products: films, political cartoons, action packets, expose', public service messages, posters, petitions, polling, lobbying, fundraising, etc., to stimulate student ideas about how to organize around the issue they ultimately select.
- 5) In order to assist students in perceiving real-life problems or societal issues related to a particular topic, teachers should include suggested activities, readings, or investigations. A part of an IDC that explores the education of the hearing impaired might include activity cards like these:
 - a. What is the difference between American Sign Language (ASL) and signed English? What is the preferred method?
 - b. What has the school done to accommodate students with hearing impairments?
 - c. What accommodations exist in the community to remove communication barriers for people with hearing impairments?
 - d. Contact _____ and arrange an interview with a person with a hearing impairment.
 - e. Learn sign language dictionaries to learn some basic signs.