

The Mayor Calls For Help

Grade level: 7-9

Time: 45-90 minutes

Objectives:

- Determine what groups or individuals are affecting an issue.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Art

Materials: Flip Chart paper, markers, access to research materials (Internet, books, community contacts, etc).

Procedure:

- 1) Divide class into three groups (community, private, and public). Each group chooses roles: mayor (speaker), professor (reader), author (writer), and artist (creative).
- 2) Each group is given a list of questions to research and answer. Groups must divide up the work, determine their method of presentation, and complete the task.

Questions:

1. How does this group influence the issue?
 2. How are this group's actions positive or negative?
 3. What policies are involved?
 4. Are they being enforced?
 5. What practices are involved?
 6. How do kids relate to this group?
- 3) Groups list where they found the information and what their results were. The students also create a way to present the information to the whole group by staying in their roles. They might: create a poster with information, pick up brochures from a government agency, create a brochure of their own explaining the policies and practices of this group, or write a story with pictures that explain what they've found.
 - 4) Students may determine that only one group is responsible for causing this issue to exist. This is a perfect time to bring in a community speaker (guest perspectives) so that the students can conduct a question and answer session with the expert.

Reflection Assignment:

- Students will discuss how groups are affecting issues.
- Students may conduct interviews for further information of community members.

Assessment:

1. Quality of presentations and discussion.

Source: Adapted from Patty O'Meagher