



TARGETING PROBLEMS IN MY COMMUNITY

(30-45 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students learn about different problems in the local community, choose one, and brainstorm ways they can make a difference, leading to an understanding of the social and political responsibilities of citizenship is very important to the concept of “the common good.”

GET READY

- ✓ Arrange to have someone from the community come to your class and speak about local community needs and problems.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ For homework one night, ask students to talk to their parents/guardians about what they think are the most important community needs and/or problems. Have students share their findings with the class while you add them to a list on the board. Then have your students come up with any additional ideas to add to the board.
- ✓ The next day, have someone from the community come to your class to speak about local community needs and problems. This could be a public official such as the mayor or a city council member or someone who works for an umbrella social service organization such as United Way. Ask the speaker to talk with the class about current community problems. Encourage your students to ask questions so they can learn how/why the problems originated and what they can do to help.

- ✓ Have each student select what they think is the most important problem. Have them consider:
 - a) What issue interested me the most?,
 - b) What issue matters the most to me, my neighborhood, and my community?
 - c) What could I do to help solve this problem?
- ✓ Have your students share their problems and solutions with the class. For example, if a student selects too much trash in the community as a problem, some solutions include recycling, encouraging others to not litter, and throwing away trash in parks and playgrounds.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *What are some of our community’s needs and problems?*
- ★ *When have you noticed some of these problems in our community?*
- ★ *What are some solutions to these problems? Why do you think these are good solutions?*
- ★ *What are some of the sources of these problems? How do you think they started?*
- ★ *What can we do as individuals to help prevent these problems?*
- ★ *What can we do as a class to help prevent these problems?*

SUGGESTED ASSESSMENT:

- ★ *Write a short essay explaining how you would solve a problem in your community.*