

Area/Skill - Social Studies

Cognitive Skill Level - Evaluation

Correlation to Framework - 02.03, 02.05

Lesson Number - 20

Activity Title - A City Council Meeting

Goal/Objective

To assess the process of conducting a local city council meeting and the effects of the meeting on the workplace and the community.

Lesson Outline

Introduction

Many people do not have adequate information about governmental proceedings. Everyone has a right and an obligation to know how the government affects their community - this may include local government as well as state and national.

Activity

Tape a local city council meeting. Have students watch the tape. Different meetings will have different outcomes. Have the class discuss what they observed from the proceedings. Identify the major issues discussed and their outcomes. Have students evaluate how these outcomes could affect their own community and the businesses in their area. Write down the students' ideas.

Debriefing/Evaluation Activity

Discuss the importance of understanding local government and its impact on communities and businesses. Have the students identify and discuss concerns that they would like to bring before the city council and why.

Real-Life Connection

Have students write a short essay explaining how the outcome of the City Council meeting could or does affect local industry. Provide students with the opportunity to share their ideas with the class.

Materials/Texts/Realia/Handouts

- Newspapers
- Paper and pencils
- Television/VCR
- Video of City Council Meeting

Extension Activity

Have students attend a city or county meeting. Review the local newspaper for articles regarding the meeting or outcomes resulting from the meeting.

ESE/ESOL Accommodations

Allow students to work with others or to complete the activity orally.

Provide students with a written outline of the meeting. This outline can be used by the student in taking notes and following the main ideas. Also develop a brief page of words and definitions that are heard in the tape.

GED 2002 Teachers' Handbook of Lesson Plans - Script

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<p data-bbox="58 215 606 245">Activity Title - A City Council Meeting</p> <p data-bbox="58 277 233 306">Introduction</p> <p data-bbox="58 345 2018 410"><i>Ask:</i> Does anyone know how decisions are made in our local area? Who is involved in the decision making? Have you ever had to ask for a decision from a city or county official? Has anyone ever attended a city council meeting or county commissioner's meeting? How about a school board meeting?</p> <p data-bbox="58 443 2007 508">Many students have not had to deal with issues that required attendance at a formal board meeting. If this is the case, briefly discuss the purpose of the different boards or councils.</p> <p data-bbox="58 545 243 574">Main Activity</p> <p data-bbox="58 613 1982 678"><i>Say:</i> Today, we are going watch a video of an actual city council meeting. As you are watching, notice the process of the meeting and what is being discussed. You may wish to write down some of the items discussed or information that may impact you, your community, or businesses in your area.</p> <p data-bbox="58 711 2003 808">After watching the tape, discuss the agenda of the meeting and the process followed. <i>Ask:</i> What types of things did you see? Why was a certain protocol followed? What type of problems were discussed? Were decisions made? Why or why not? How could the outcome of this meeting impact you personally?</p> <p data-bbox="58 846 338 875">Closure/Conclusion</p> <p data-bbox="58 914 1971 1011"><i>Say:</i> Local and state boards must be open in their meetings. They must adhere to the "Sunshine Law." This means that the citizens or community at-large have a right to know what their elected officials are discussing and what decisions are being made. <i>Ask:</i> Why is it important for these types of meetings to be open to the public? What might happen if closed-door meetings were allowed?</p> <p data-bbox="58 1044 1545 1076"><i>Ask:</i> What type of concerns might you bring up at a council meeting? Why? What type of outcome would you want?</p> <p data-bbox="58 1114 470 1143">Follow-Up Lessons/Activities</p> <p data-bbox="58 1182 2007 1247">Have students attend a local public meeting and report to the class the main topics of conversation and decisions that were made. Students may wish to also research the local newspaper for articles that addressed the meeting or its outcomes.</p>			