

Lesson Plan: A Stakeholders' Meeting, Peace Park Playground

North Carolina Standards:

- Competency Goal 4.06 – Describe the benefits of civic participation.
- Competency Goal 4.08 – Participate in civic life, politics and/or government.
- Competency Goal 4.09 – Utilize various methods of resolving conflicts.

Essential Questions:

- What methods exist for citizen input on public policy?
- How do citizens and local government agencies work together to resolve conflicts?
- What are the basic guidelines for participation in stakeholders' meetings?
- How do the people and the events of my community directly impact local policy?

Materials and Resources:

- Peace Park Playground, handout attached
- Stakeholder Positions, handout attached

Note: This lesson plan is designed for one block class period.

Activity One: Preparing for a Stakeholder Process

- Explain to students that each will be a member of a stakeholder group, working to identify a solution for the land issue with Peace Park.
- Distribute the Peace Park Playground handout to each student. (You also have the option to distribute this handout one day prior as homework reading and then to discuss the highlights and answer any questions.)
- Have a student read the handout aloud while other students follow along; address any questions students have regarding the scenario.
- Inform students they will now become members of a stakeholder group; assign three to five students, depending on your class size, to each of the five groups.

Activity Two: Group Preparation

- Distribute the stakeholder positions written for each group and inform the groups they have been brought together by the Rockmont Parks and Recreation Department.
- Allow each stakeholder group twenty to thirty minutes to read over its position and to identify its concerns.
 - Students should consider the following:
 - Stakeholder position
 - Strategies to address their position
 - Their preferred solution and options they can live with to make it work
 - Other stakeholders' positions
 - Strategies to address other stakeholders' positions
 - Some options to address other stakeholders' positions
 - How can my stakeholder group and other stakeholder groups all get something they want?

Activity Three: A Meeting of Stakeholders

- Inform students they will have the remaining class time to complete the stakeholders' meeting.
- Have the director of the Parks and Recreation Department identify him or herself and to proceed as instructed.
 - Teachers, if you wish to provide a little more order to the meeting, please work with the Parks and Recreation Group to determine how the meeting can be run most efficiently.

Activity Four: Debriefing of Stakeholder Meeting

- Have each stakeholder group identify its current position.
- Have the stakeholder groups discuss their preferred solutions, other options they might consider, and solutions that satisfy more than one group.