

presenting
your
sustainable
solution



presenting your sustainable action taking solution – the community meeting and consensus

Standards Met: S1, S5, S6, S7 LA3, LA4, LA6, LA7, LA8



goal Goal:

Students present their action plans to their community and try to reach a consensus as to the most sustainable solution.

materials

Materials (for a class of 30):

- One Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Community Meeting Agenda sheet (make a transparency, have copies available for students if you choose)
- One Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Tips on Facilitating a Mediation Session sheet (teacher copy)
- 30 Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Role Playing/Presentation Tips Student Sheet
- 30 Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Debriefing a Role Play Activity Student Sheet
- 12 red post-it notes
- 12 green post-it notes
- 12 “dot” stickers
- Six flip charts
- Flip chart markers
- Overhead projector
- Computer access with Microsoft PowerPoint software
- Computer projection system
- Timer



Time Required: Two – 45 to 60 minute class periods

objectives

Objectives:

Students will...

- Define consensus.
- Participate in a simulated community meeting.
- Role-play the concerns of an assigned player.
- Effectively communicate the character’s position on the most sustainable action.
- Summarize how they rated criteria in relation to data collected.
- Explain how science and human ingenuity factored into their selected action.
- Reach consensus on the most sustainable action.
- Provide a plan to implement action idea.

Proceed

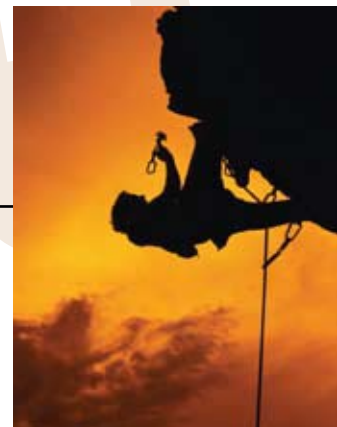
Prep

- Place flip charts/poster paper around the classroom titled with each of the potential action taking options.
- Have the goal and criteria written on poster paper in the front of the room (from a previous activity).
- Read over Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Tips on Facilitating a Mediation Session.
- Explain agenda for the meeting.
- Discuss ground rules.
- Pass out Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Role Playing/Presentation Tips Student Sheet.
- Discuss Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Role Playing/Presentation Tips Student Sheet as a class.
- Remind the class of the objective ~ consensus.

In Class

- Have students sit in their role (research presentation) groups.
- Discuss “consensus.”
- Define consensus as a class.
- Put Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Community Meeting Agenda on the overhead projector.
- Have each group place their two colored dots on the criteria that they feel are the most important (they must select two different criteria).
- Remind each group what must be covered in their presentation.
- Allow each student group five minutes to make their presentation (notify them when they have 30 seconds remaining). Be sure presentations do not go over the allotted time.

Assessment



- After all the presentations have been completed, have the students vote on actions that were recommended. Voting is done by placing two red post-it notes on actions that they cannot support and two green post-it notes on actions that they would support (they can place both notes on one action this time if they want or on two different actions).
- After the voting is completed, allow students time to discuss the results.
- Determine if the community can come to a consensus as to the action they want to take to solve their community's water problem.
- If no consensus can be reached, ask the community members what they think should be done to select an action taking strategy (majority vote, $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote, etc.).
- Come to some conclusions as to what should be done.
- Congratulate all of the groups on a job well-done!
- Pass out one Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Debriefing a Role Play Activity/ Presentation Student Sheet to each student.
- Discuss the community meeting as a whole group.
- Have students fill out their Presenting Your Sustainable Solution – Debriefing a Role Play/ Presentation Activity Student Sheet.

Assessment

- Participation in Community Meeting
- Successful completion of Presenting Your Sustainable Solution-Debriefing a Role Play/ Presentation Activity Student Sheet.

Community Meeting Agenda

Working Definition of Consensus

Working toward a decision –

- That you can live with and support
- The decision may not be your first choice

Agenda

- Explain ground rules
- Introduction of community meeting participants
- Revisit goal and criteria
- Selecting top concerns (criteria)
- Group presentations
- Vote on potential actions
- Discussion of vote
- Community consensus on one recommendation or other selection option
- Wrap-up
- End meeting

Ground Rules

- Two ears, one mouth – use them proportionately
- Avoid side conversations
- Focus on the task
- Listen and be courteous of speakers (no interrupting)
- Allow facilitator(s) (Sustainability Corps) to mediate the discussion
- Participate in good faith

Tips on Facilitating a Mediation Session

(for individuals representing the Sustainability Corps)

Entry

1. Introduce yourself and welcome participants.
2. Briefly state why you are here in neutral terms.
3. Explain the process of mediation and its effectiveness.
4. Focus on the present and future, not the past.
5. Mention that this is a voluntary and confidential process.
6. Mediators are neutral, not judges or advisors.
7. State ground rules.
8. Ask for questions.
9. Get commitment to start in good faith.

Storytelling

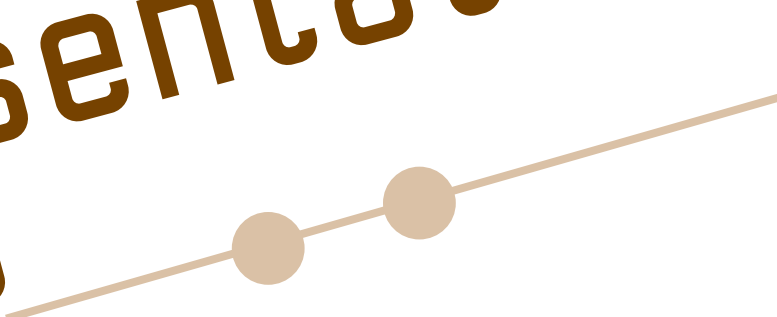
1. Pick one party and have them describe the situation as they see it.
2. Periodically or in summary, restate the main goal and criteria.
3. Get all of the pertinent facts and focus on the recurring feelings and patterns.
4. Do the same with the other parties.

Reaching the Final Agreement

1. Write out agreement and read aloud.
2. Make any correction and have all community members sign it.
3. Acknowledge parties for their hard work and conclude. Ask parties if they have anything they want to say before leaving. Leave with a positive statement.



Role Playing/ Presentation Tips



You are playing a member of your community.

As you prepare for your presentation, think about the following questions:

What action are you recommending?

What data supports the rating of your criteria?

What is your most important concern (criteria)?

What other actions would you be willing to consider?

How will you convince others to choose your action?

Who are your allies? Who might agree with your position and why?

Who might disagree with your position and why?

How will you respond to opposing arguments and reasons that you might expect to hear during the meeting?

What are the pros and cons of each of the different actions from your point of view?

Are you willing to compromise and what is your bottom line (the point beyond which you will not compromise)?

As you prepare for your presentation, it may be useful to ask other “players” questions about their positions and recommendations. Remember, from the time you are assigned a role you must remain in character. The entire meeting will be conducted in your role. The debriefing session will be done out of role.

Debriefing a Role Play/Presentation Activity

Name _____

With your group, focus your debrief on how it felt to be in the roles that were assigned to you during your presentation and the dynamic of how the group worked.

- How well did the outcome serve everyone's concerns (criteria)? Did you find that your concerns were ever at odds with parties' concerns? Was it possible to find an action congruent with everyone's concerns?
- Did you feel that the way voting was done to determine the most sustainable action was the best method of reaching a consensus? Why or why not?
- Did the quality of a group's presentation have an influence on the voting? Explain.
- What kind of power did different players have in the situation (personal, informational, constituency, public relations advantage, community status, etc.)? Did the power balance influence the outcome?

