

Maine Municipal Literacy Project

LESSON PLAN

Who are the people in Our Neighborhood

Grade Level: 10-11

Key Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Familiarize themselves with local and county government.
2. Discover how important their voices are (developmental assets).
3. Use ideas and technology to describe what we have learned.

Project Description:

This project is based on taking students out of the classroom for meaningful interactions with municipal leaders. It puts students the driver's seat. This lesson plan was demonstrated in Houlton, Me, which is Shiretown with many different municipal government levels. By utilizing technology in the exploration process, students can gain a closer connection to their local government and capture the learning process for further reflection.

Lesson Introduction:

Day one and two: What is local government, where is it and how do we get there? Use a variety of maps to locate the different buildings that house your local government and plan an eventual walking trip to your downtown area. Students will use the maps and build on that, finding out the "who, what, why and how" of what goes on in the various buildings and offices.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
begins with **YOU**



Maine Municipal Association



JMG
WE BELIEVE IN MAINE STUDENTS

The Maine Municipal Literacy Project is a partnership between the Maine Municipal Association, the City of Saco, and Jobs for Maine's Graduates. The project is supported by the Maine Community Foundation.

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Instructional Strategies and Activities:

After the students have a firm understanding of what goes on at these buildings take a walking tour. This may take several days with various groups of students, depending on class makeup and schedules. The students will ask the officials at the locations a variety of questions concerning their jobs, leadership and issues. Have the students develop their questions, and identify "lead" interviewers.

In Houlton, the tours included:

Aroostook County Courts
Aroostook County Jail
Houlton Town Office
Houlton Public Works
Houlton Emergency Services
School Board

Some students attended planning board and counsel meetings.

It is important to note that members from each organization/association generously agreed to talk to the students and give tours. The students videotape the tours, and review with the rest of their classmates. The videos can be showcased at a town event, and/or at least given to the respected town leaders.

Assessment: The majority of this is group work. This curriculum works for all students involved, the techies, the behind the scenes and then the more vocal students.

Sharing the Learning:

The video are to be shared with the town officials, and at in-school forums, including school board meetings.

Resources needed:)

Video recorder
Time and legs :)

Potential Issues:

- *Arranging travel for students that need to go to after school meetings
- *Permission slips for the walk
- *Confidentiality forms for local jails

Please Note:

Additional curriculum materials
can be found on the Maine
Municipal Association website at:
[http://www.memun.org/public/
local_govt/ed/default.html](http://www.memun.org/public/local_govt/ed/default.html)

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- *Rain, snow
- *Availability of officials at different times
- *Student behavior/dress
- *Arranging for officials to come to the classroom

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