

Maine Municipal Literacy Project

LESSON PLAN

Lesson Plan Title: Exploring Local Government

Grade Level: 9-12

Key Objectives:

The primary objectives of this lesson are: To create awareness and inform students of the opportunities to work in local government; To create a relationship with local officials for my students to utilize for future community service projects, job opportunities and networking; Create a common understanding on how communities are governed and the leadership opportunities there in.

By the end of this lesson, students will:

1. Know what jobs are available in their towns Local Government.
2. Know who their local officials are
3. Build a community resource bank of local officials for future community service projects, job resources, and networking opportunities.

Project Description:

Students will be researching the different job opportunities in Local Government, the different roles each official plays in the community, and map the town offices in each town that is in their school district. Students will also compare the roles of local officials to those in their student government positions. Students will then choose one local official and invite them into the class room to give a presentation to the class about their job opportunities and students will conduct a presentation to the local official about school/community activities supported by students.

Lesson Introduction:

What would be an exciting way to pique students' interest in this lesson and to introduce the Maine Municipal Literacy Project? How will you engage them in the opportunity to connect with municipal leaders and/or local issues affecting their town?

This class is like a Community. A community is a collective body of individuals that have common rights and privileges. Underneath each seat is a position that can be held in local Government. It is your job to research this position and for the next few weeks you will hold that position in our classroom community. You will all be working together to gather the information required for this Local Government Project. .

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
begins with **you**



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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The class will be responsible for finding out the location of each municipal office, collecting the names of local officials and creating a resource bank for future student job shadow, community service and networking opportunities. You will also be making a wall map of the towns in the school district and include the location of the municipal offices on this map. As a community you will decide on one local government official to invite into the class room for a joint presentation. One presentation will be from the local official and the other will be from students presenting information about a school/community project, and giving an overview of the research and knowledge gained in the local municipal project.

Instructional Strategies and Activities:

- Have Local Government in Maine booklets available.
- Have an internet resource guide of local government websites and additional helpful websites.
- Have materials needed for printing, cutting and gluing local town maps together.
- Provide examples of a professional power point and presentation skills
- Encourage students to work together to achieve requirements of the project, explaining that in order for a community to be successful all need to contribute.
- Conduct research prior to the lesson so when students have questions, answers can easily be provided.

Assessment:

Students will have created a Map that will have the location of the each of the Town Offices as well as underneath a list of those who hold positions in each town office. Students can also create a professional PowerPoint presentation showing the aspects of their student-led project.

Sharing the Learning:

Students will have the opportunity to present there knowledge gained and show off their presentation skills to other local officials, and potentially school administrators, and other classes of students. The Map can continue to be displayed in the classroom/school.

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

Helpful Web Resources:

- <http://www.memun.org/public/MMA/default.htm>
- <http://www.memun.org/publications/LocalGovt/BK/12-22-05.pdf>
- <http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/>
- <http://www.maine.info/maine-cities.php>

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Reflection:

Learning about local government may generate a greater interest in future participation in local government. The networking opportunities and the future job opportunities will provide great life lessons as to the importance of building a professional networking community. This project may instill a desire to better local communities and provide future volunteer opportunities to do so.

Resources needed:

- Copies of the Maine Local Government Booklet
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Poster board
- Printer, paper
- Computers
- Presentation preparation and techniques lesson
- Presentation of student preparation
- Town Maps?
- This project could take many class periods, and should be broken up into shorter segments depending on what aspect of the lesson you are focusing on.
- Town office mailing addresses, email, phone number (for sending out invitations and for the resource bank)

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- <http://www.maine.gov/portal/government/>
- <http://www.maine.info/maine-cities.php>