



BEING AN INVOLVED CITIZEN: PARTICIPATING IN A COMMUNITY TASKFORCE

HERE'S THE SCENARIO IN BRIEF

You and others in the city are interested in lobbying for _____.
The mayor is undecided about this issue and decides to convene a taskforce to study (research) the issue and make a public recommendation. The taskforce must be made up of people who have a stake or expertise in this issue and who bring different perspectives to this issue.

Each member of the taskforce will be responsible for presenting a perspective on the issue and the entire taskforce must submit a summary with recommendations that is collaboratively developed and reflects the perspectives.

PREPARING TO RESEARCH

- A. BRAINSTORM civic issues (see *Research Success*, p. 11)
- use current newspapers and news sources online for ideas

- B. CHOOSE AN ISSUE of interest to your group.

Issue of Interest: _____

- C. CREATE THE TASKFORCE

Number of People on the taskforce: _____

List Members on Taskforce

Select a chairperson to head your taskforce

- D. DEVELOP RESEARCH QUESTIONS

What information are you looking for? What questions need answers?
(see *Research Success*, p. 14, 15)

- E. Brainstorm a list of the kinds of resources that would be most appropriate for this research. Consider a variety of resources.
(see *Research Success*, p. 13)

Teacher's Approval: _____

D. NEGOTIATE TIMELINE

Days in Library:

Days in Class:

Presentation date:

Summary/Recommendations date:

ACCESSING INFORMATION

Decide what kinds of information and resources will be most appropriate for research

- A. Consider primary or secondary resources or both?

- B. Include a wide variety of appropriate resources

Online databases

- Gale-Cengage – CPIQ (Globe and Mail)
- Ebsco – Student Reference Centre (Toronto Star)

Websites & Blogs

People to interview

Videos

- CBC News in Review

Print



- C. Complete the resource sheet to keep track of resources.
(see *Research Success*, p. 31)

PROCESSING INFORMATION

- A. Use notemaking organizers to take notes (see *Research Success*, p. 39)
 - ◆ take point-form notes with key information only
- B. Sort and record your information and ideas
 - (see *Research Success*, p. 45, 46, 47)
- C. Question the relevance, point of view and authority of your information
- D. Record your own thoughts and ideas as take notes
- E. Meet as a taskforce to share ideas.
- F. Create a Visual Organizer using SmartIdeas that gives a brief overview of all the perspectives.

COMMUNICATE THE LEARNING

- A. Presentation Information: Each member of taskforce will present.
The presentation should:
 - ~ be succinct: 2 minutes (you will be timed)
 - ~ summarize your perspective
 - ~ clearly state position and supporting arguments
 - ~ include the recommendation your taskforce will be making
 - ~ be enthusiastically delivered
- B. Written summary of Taskforce: Collaborative venture that includes the following:
 - ~ Introduction that presents the issue
 - ~ One paragraph per perspective
 - ~ Conclusion with recommendations
 - ~ Reference list in correct format

Remember: Academic Honesty means that other people's ideas and information will be cited and documented.

APPENDIX 1

POSSIBLE ISSUES:

Teachers Suspending Students
Legalizing Marijuana
Boot Camp for Youth
Safety on the streets
Toronto Transit Commission
Dogs on Leash: Dogs pooping on Street
Nude Beach on Hanlan's Point
Skateboarding on Public Property
Raves
Drinking Age
Rent Control
Gangs
Graffiti
Young Offenders Law
Polluted Beaches
Smog Alerts
Street Kids
Community Service
Welfare/Workfare
Targeting Teens: Advertising in Schools

APPENDIX 2

POSSIBLE MEMBERS OF TASKFORCE

Members should be selected from this list of possible concerned parties:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ✓ political representative | ✓ media person |
| ✓ teenager | ✓ religious representative |
| ✓ police | ✓ legal representative |
| ✓ business person | ✓ researcher |
| ✓ parent | ✓ scientist |
| ✓ medical person | ✓ fire fighter |
| | ✓ financial representative e.g. banker |

