



ACTIVITY: GRADES 3-8

Solutions to Community Problems

It takes a village to solve community problems. In this exercise, students work together to address local issues.

Working together to understand and solve problems is a skill students will use throughout their education and into adulthood. This Academic Integration Activity for Grades 3–8 is an opportunity for students to practice their problem-solving and conflict-resolution skills to address an issue affecting their community.

Preparation

Have students divide themselves into groups of three or four. Have current newspapers, news magazines, and news websites available.

Directions

Have students work in groups and use the Problem-Solving Steps to solve a problem in one of their communities. If necessary, consult a local newspaper or news website. Examples of possible problems include:

- Conflict-resolution talks between countries
- Local election issues
- Playground conduct
- Classroom rules

Then each group should:

1. Determine the problem
2. Think of several possible solutions to the problem
3. Consider the consequences for each of their solutions
4. Pick the solution they think will work the best
5. Present their solution to the class