

COMMUNITY, ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS

LESSON 7: UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY

Lesson aim:

- ↘ To use school to illustrate to students the meaning of community and associated responsibilities.
- ↘ To continue to develop students' key skills such as debating and report writing.

Learning objectives:

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- ↘ describe the concept of community and compare school and community life; and
- ↘ outline school policy and rules and explore the rationale behind them.

Lesson outline:

In-class activity: Brainstorm and discussions

Ask students to think about the word community. What do they think it is, what does it describe? Where do communities exist? Write down all the responses on the blackboard or flipchart after which the class should formulate their own description of a community. Read out the definition in the resource section, ensuring all students understand its meaning.

Now suggest that school is also a community and ask them to list the similarities between school and community.

In order for students to comply with school rules and be aware of their responsibilities as a student member they should be familiar with the rules. This is the same rationale that applies in the workplace. Provide students with a copy of the school rules, guidelines, policies and reports.

In groups they should analyse the rules, discuss and decide the purpose and aim of each rule, why they think these rules are required, and complete **Worksheet 8**.

What rules do they agree with and what rules do they disagree with? Explain reasons.

In-class activity: Review

- ↘ What have you learned?
- ↘ Do you have a better understanding of the rules?
- ↘ Why do you think rules are necessary?
- ↘ How do you think rules should be changed?
- ↘ Do you think your suggestions for rule changes are realistic and practical?
- ↘ How might your class seek rule changes?

In-class activity: Follow-up debate

Organise a debate on one of the following motions:

- ↘ "School rules encroach on the rights and freedoms of students."
- ↘ "School rules are a necessary part of the life of a community."

In-class activity: Discussions

Based on what has been learned so far how are changes implemented in the workplace? Do workers have any input to those changes in the workplace? How might workers make changes to workplace rules?