



Key Stage 3

Public Participation

Lesson Plan

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Objectives

By the end of the session, students would be able to:

- Explain the importance of public participation in the democratic process.
- Recognize how being involved in the democratic process is a personal responsibility of all citizens.
- Explain the different ways in which the public can participate in the lawmaking process.

Curriculum Link

Social Studies Curriculum Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship, sub-strand: Rights, Responsibilities and Citizenship
(Grade 7) GC 5.1: Explore the concepts of rights, duties, responsibilities, and civic rights and obligations
(Grade 8) GC 5.1: Recognize and show awareness about the constitutional and legal rights, civic duties, responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a constitutional democracy

Success Criteria

Students will be able to:

- Explain reasons why public participation is important.
- List different ways of interacting with the Majlis and the lawmaking process.

Setting or Resources required

- Factsheet "Public participation"
- PPT slides "Public participation"

Procedure

Introduction (5 minutes)

Introduce the session by explaining to students the word “democracy” comes from two Greek words that mean people (demos) and rule (kratos). Explain that democracy stands for the idea that the citizens of a country should take an active role in the government of their country and manage it directly or through elected representatives. Thus, a key part of democracy is that the people have a voice.

Brainstorm with students to name a few other important characteristics of a democracy.

Activity (25 minutes)

Tell students we are going to focus this lesson on how as citizens we can stay informed and voice our opinions to the Majlis.

Explain to students that just as we elect the President of the country, similarly we elect Members of the Parliament for a specific term to represent us citizens in the Majlis. But our responsibility need not end there. There are several mechanisms through which we can be more involved in the whole law-making process rather than just handing all the powers to the members and stay inactive,

Run through the PPT slides to show students different ways in which the public can get involved with the Majlis and the law-making process. Go through the Majlis website to show them a few examples.

After discussion of the PPT slides, ask if they know their respective constituencies and the MPs that represent their constituencies. Tell students that they are going to find out about the MPs that represent their constituencies and draft a letter to send to the MP about an issue that concerns you in your neighborhood. (Eg; it could be problems of vehicle parking, congestion, lack of parks nearby, lack of pavement or Zebra-crosses for pedestrians, etc.)

Ask students to share their draft letters with a partner sitting next to them. Tell them they can seriously consider sending the letter to their respective MPs after reviewing it with their parents and writing a proper final letter.

Closure (5 minutes)

Discuss how problems in the community can be solved through public participation when more people are concerned and involved in the law-making process.

Wrap up the discussion emphasizing that there are many ways citizens can be involved in these processes and the most important one is to be an informed citizen.