



Key Stage 4

Public Participation

Lesson Plan

Lesson Plan - Key Stage 4

Public Participation

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

Extension of Strand 5: Governance and Citizenship of Key Stage 3 Social Studies Curriculum
(Grade 7) GC 5.1: Explore the concepts of rights, duties, responsibilities, and civic rights and obligations
(Grade 8) GC 5.1: Recognise and show awareness about the constitutional and legal rights, civic duties, responsibilities, and roles of citizens in a constitutional democracy

National Social Studies Curriculum Key Stage 4, Strand 4: Governance and Citizenship
GC 4.2: Demonstrate and employ values and skills necessary to be an active citizen in a democratic society

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 presentation slides, tell students that they are going to write a petition to submit to the School or Majlis. Ask students to make groups of 5 or 6 and think of a problem in the school or community that they have a good suggestion to solve. Write a petition, by following the steps below:

Step 1 – Decide whether you want to submit it to the School Principal or the Speaker of the Majlis. In your greeting, use their name to start your letter politely.

Step 2 – Start the body of your letter with a statement to explain your issue. Add supporting facts to convince them why this is important. State what you want to change. End the paragraph with the course of action you would like to suggest as a solution to this issue.

Step 3 – Add signatures of people who agree and support your issue to the bottom of your letter.

After giving 5 minutes for them to write and sign their petition in groups, ask each group to put up their petitions around the class for everyone to go around and see. Ask students to read all the petitions from all the groups and give their signatures for another petition that you feel is a good cause with strong points.

Closure (5 minutes)

Discuss why some petitions gained more signatures than others. (Because the issue raised is one that more students can relate with or is an issue more students need a solution for).

Discuss how problems in the community can be solved through public participation like this when more people agree on an issue.

Wrap up the discussion emphasizing that petitions are just one way of participating in the democratic process but as discussed there are many others and the most important one is to be an informed citizen.