



Comm Skills Virtual Learning

Legal Communications I & II

Research & Investigation

May 1, 2020



Lesson: May 1, 2020

Objective/Learning Target: Students will research and investigate gaps in laws and policy.

Bell Ringer/Let's Get Started

.Think of a problem that you recently encountered. Maybe it was an issue with a friend. Perhaps you were frustrated by a math problem. What was your solution? Were you happy with it?

Brainstorm 3-5 other possible solutions.

Lesson/Activity

Alternative Solutions

This is where problem-solving skills develop. You will research and analyze a variety of options for addressing the chosen problem *through public policy*.

Alternative policy options might include:

- Proposals that have been suggested by different political parties or interest groups
- Suggestions or bills put forward by elected officials
- Policy ideas put forth in speeches by elected officials or citizens
- Current policies in other towns, cities, states, or countries

For example: what different alternatives might there have been to address the issue of marijuana legalization in Colorado before we got the current policy?

Lesson/Activity

Logistics:

1. Brainstorming or exploration of alternative solutions to an issue or two
2. Research, investigation and exploration of alternative options
3. Presentation of ideas
4. Decision on solution of choice to tackle

Lesson/Activity

Your Policy Solution Proposal Checklist

For each policy solution you think of, complete the following checklist with thorough responses. This will also be your outline for presenting your policy solution.

Summarize your policy solution in 5 sentences or less:

Title/Name of your Policy:

Who in the community will support this policy?

Who in the community might oppose this policy?

What are at least 3 advantages of this policy?

What are at least 2 disadvantages of this policy?

What level of government is involved?

Lesson/Activity

POLICY PROPOSAL SOLUTION CHECKLIST

Why are you confident this policy is a good solution to our problem?

What questions do you still have with regard to this policy solution?

List of sources where you got the ideas for this policy:

Practice

Analyzing Alternative Policies

As you consider each alternative, analyze each one to help you decide which might be best to choose. Complete for at least three possible alternatives.

Policy Name/Title:

Basic description:

Advantages:

Disadvantages:

Supporters / Opponents:

Things we still need to find out about this policy:

Practice

What level(s) and branch(es) of government is/are responsible for dealing with the problem?

What disagreements about this public policy, or the current way of dealing with it, exist in the community?

Who are the major individuals, groups, or organizations expressing opinions regarding the problem?

Additional Resources

[Justice Policy](#)

[Office of Justice Programs](#)

[Transforming the System](#)