



Watts On Your Mind?

Solar energy educational activities for schools

Activity Overview

Grade Level: 9-12

Activity: HS-3

Description

Students will role-play stakeholders in a community meeting talking about renewable energy and energy conservation.

Learning Outcome

Students will research renewable energy sources and energy conservation techniques. They will practice presentation, discussion and negotiation tactics.

Subjects

Science, Speech, Government

Process Skills Used

Discussion, research, presentation, negotiation

Duration

5 class periods

Key Vocabulary

Renewable energy, conservation, constituency

Curriculum Standards

Texas (TEKS): 112.42.c.6, 112.44.c.5

Louisiana (LSCS):

SE-H-B1, SE-M-A6

Arkansas (ASCF) 4.1.28:

National (AAAS Project 2061):

The Designed World – 12th

Community Meeting

Materials

- Activity sheet (provided)

Method

Divide the class into five groups. Instruct the groups to select a constituency to represent. The constituencies are: community members, city council, the local electric utility company, environmental activists and business owners. Once student groups have selected a constituency, they should brainstorm energy issues and concerns particular to that constituency. For example, business leaders may be concerned about electricity rates may not be concerned about the environment, but they.

Discussion

Hand out the following scenario and have students complete tasks throughout the week. The final lesson should consist of a group discussion and negotiation amongst representatives from each group.



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Scenario

You live in Anywhere, U.S.A. Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency fined your town for having poor air quality. Many people believe the poor air quality may be due, in part, to the two coal-burning power plants that the local utility operates. The larger is located 5 miles southwest of Anywhere

In one week, the community will hold a meeting with representatives from the community, the city council, the utility, environmental activists and business leaders. As a group, pick a constituency. Brainstorm possible concerns your constituency would have regarding this issue. Research renewable energy sources and energy conservation. Prepare a plan for improving air quality. When all of the groups are prepared, hold a community meeting with one spokesperson from each group (other members will observe). You cannot end the community meeting until all of the spokespeople agree on a plan to improve air quality.