Solving the Problem

Steps for solving problems in your community!

Benchmarks

SS.7.C.2.12 Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.
Levels of Government
In our **federal system** of government, the government shares powers between three levels:
How do we know if a problem should be handled by local, state, or federal government?

Click the image to do an interactive activity!
WHAT PROBLEMS EXIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

- Make a list individually.
- Once you have your list, share it with a small group and combine your lists.
- We will combine all of our lists into a class list.
Levels of Government

In our federal system of government, the government shares powers between three levels:
Identify the problem.

What is the problem and who does it impact?

The problem is...........
How do we solve problems in a community?

Public Policy Solutions

• How would you define: Public

• How would you define: Policy

• So how would you define “public policy”?

Community Service Solutions

• How would you define community service?
  – Voluntary work intended to help people in a particular area or contribute to a particular cause.

  – How does community service differ from public policy solutions?
What is Public Policy?

• On your handout, identify examples of public policy and examples of community service. Explain your responses.

• Think of ways that the examples of public policy could be accomplished with community service.

• How could community service examples be made into public policy?
# What is Public Policy?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public Policy</th>
<th>Community Service or Service Learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Local government installs trash cans; fines for littering enforced</td>
<td>• Volunteer to pick up trash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School board ban on student cell phones because of cheating on tests</td>
<td>• Offer peer tutoring for test prep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local government funds homeless shelter and materials</td>
<td>• Elks Club collecting items for the homeless</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• City fee to aid with road repairs</td>
<td>• Soccer team holds fundraiser to repair the road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Local government funds bicycle safety classes</td>
<td>• Local cycling group holds bicycle safety classes for the community</td>
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</tbody>
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Resolving Community Problems

Identify the problem.  
What is the problem and who does it impact?  The problem is....

Research public policy alternatives.  
What are some ways this problem can be resolved using public policy?
Solving the Problem

• It is important to investigate more than one way to solve a problem.

• What are some ways your problem can be resolved using public policy?
Resolving Community Problems

1. Identify the problem. What is the problem and who does it impact?
2. Research public policy alternatives. What are some ways this problem can be resolved?
3. Identify government agencies to address the problem. Who would be responsible for resolving this problem?
WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

You will be investigating the government agency (agencies) that would help implement public policy to resolve your problem.
For example, for state-level problems:

- The State of Florida has a directory of Florida Agencies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State of Florida Agencies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Agency for State Technology</td>
<td>- Environmental Protection</td>
<td>- Legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Agriculture and Consumer Services</td>
<td>- Financial Services</td>
<td>- Lottery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Attorney General</td>
<td>- Fish &amp; Wildlife Conservation</td>
<td>- Management Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Auditor General</td>
<td>- Florida Cabinet</td>
<td>- Military Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Business &amp; Professional Regulation</td>
<td>- Florida Clerks of Court Operations Corporation (CCOC)</td>
<td>- Office of Financial Regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Citrus</td>
<td>- Governor's Office</td>
<td>- Persons with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Corrections</td>
<td>- Health</td>
<td>- Public Service Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Economic Opportunity</td>
<td>- Health Care Administration</td>
<td>- Revenue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Education</td>
<td>- Highway Safety &amp; Motor Vehicles</td>
<td>- State</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Elder Affairs</td>
<td>- Juvenile Justice</td>
<td>- State Courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Emergency Management</td>
<td>- Law Enforcement</td>
<td>- Transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>- Veterans' Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For example, for local problems:

- Your city probably has a list of agencies where you can take problems.
- For example, the city of Tallahassee has the following resources:
Resolving Community Problems

Identify the problem.
What is the problem and who does it impact?

Research public policy alternatives.
What are some ways this problem can be resolved?

Identify government agencies to address the problem.
Who would be responsible for resolving this problem?

Determine a course of action.
Who should we present our plan to and how can we make it a reality?
Luis owns a small store in the downtown business district. He learned that at the next monthly council meeting, the mayor will propose limiting the amount of time that people can park on the streets in the business district. Luis is afraid that if the city council approves the proposal, his business will suffer. Which of the following should be Luis’s final step in attempting to resolve this issue?

A. prepare a map of the available downtown parking spaces
B. present an alternative proposal at the next council meeting
C. call council members with concerns about the proposed policy
D. survey downtown businesses to determine their thoughts on the issue