

Local Government & Civic Engagement

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

The student will research a real local civic issue and identify how local government structures address it.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- paper
- pencil
- device with internet access or a local newspaper/pamphlet
- index cards

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Identify one real issue currently being discussed in your local community (research online, in a local paper, or by asking a family member — e.g., road repairs, a new library, park funding).
2. Research which level and branch of local government (city council, mayor, school board, county commission) is responsible for addressing this issue.
3. Write down 3 questions you would ask a local official about this issue if you could interview them.
4. If possible, email, call, or ask a family member connected to local government to answer your 3 questions; if not possible, research likely answers from official sources and record what you find.
5. Create a one-page 'Civic Issue Brief' summarizing the issue, who is responsible for it, and what action (if any) is being taken.

QUESTIONS

1. **What local issue did you research, and which government body is responsible for addressing it?**
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2. **What were the 3 questions you prepared, and what answers (from an interview or research) did you find?**
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3. What is one way an ordinary citizen (even someone too young to vote) can influence this local issue?

4. Why is local government often described as the level of government that most directly affects daily life?
