

Name: _____ Number: _____ Date: _____

Objectives

- I can summarize an informational text

Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

Encyclopedia of Chicago

By Robert Slayton

Edited by Ms. McCall



The Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council (BYNC) is one of the oldest community organizations in America that is still active. BYNC was founded in 1939 by Saul Alinsky and Joseph Meegan. The council was dedicated to their motto, “We the people will work out our own destiny.”

In the BYNC, organizers worked with local leaders to create an organization where people could express their needs and fears, and improve their lives by taking action. The BYNC worked with groups that were already active in the neighborhood.

At first, the council focused on equal work opportunities and fair treatment and respect for people of different backgrounds. The council joined with other organizations that were interested in the same cause.

In the 1950s the council turned to neighborhood conservation. They pressured local banks to loan money to community members to buy homes and improve buildings. As a result, the council helped improve and raise the value of homes in the neighborhood. In the 1980s, the BYNC helped direct jobs toward local residents, who were increasingly Mexican and African American.

The current mission of The Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council is to improve the happiness and health of all residents, organizations, and businesses in the Back of the Yards neighborhood.

2017 Hoops in the Hood*

Hoops in the Hood Recap 2017
Montserrat E. Ayala



This past summer I was blessed to be given the opportunity to coordinate this year's Hoops in the Hood. Hoops in the Hood is a summer youth based program that strives to promote peace and unity in the neighborhood through basketball. The players range from ages 10 to 17 years old and are from different neighborhoods throughout Back of the Yards. Our official Kick-Off was July 8th and our last game was August 18th.

In total we had 7 events with 13 teams. We had 12 of those teams formed within the community and our very first team from Brighton Park. This program is not only well known in back of the yards but is already reaching other neighborhoods. Each game is typically held at public parks or venues. We do this in order to reclaim these public spaces and give them back to the communities; this summer was no different.

Every week we had each game in spaces like Kelly Park, Cornell Square Park, Davis Park, Sherman Park, and our very own Back of the Yards College Prep. Our program had between 125-140 players with turnout from local residents increasing each year. For the last event we decided to do a Championship game and an awards ceremony at the Back Of The Yards College Prep where we had Cornell Square Park Varsity versus Brighton Park Varsity competing for First Place and Second Place, and Holy Cross Varsity versus Precious Blood Varsity competing for Third Place.

After our Championship Games we were invited to participate in this year's 11th Annual Hoops in the Hood Cross-City Tournament at Grant Park on August 19th. Our kids were more than happy to play and even made it to the finals that day! Our Pee-Wee division came out Second Place and our All-Girls Team came out Champions in the all-girls division. Many kids throughout the program have started off as little as 10 or 11 years old and keep coming back each year with their siblings just to play ball.

We're watching them grow up and slowly get involved more and more in their communities. Most of them don't even realize the monumental impact they make in their neighborhoods and it's one of the things I love about this program. Overall this summer was full of fun and excitement. I can't wait to see what's in store for next year.

**Hoops in the Hood is an event coordinated by the Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council*

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Writing Prompt

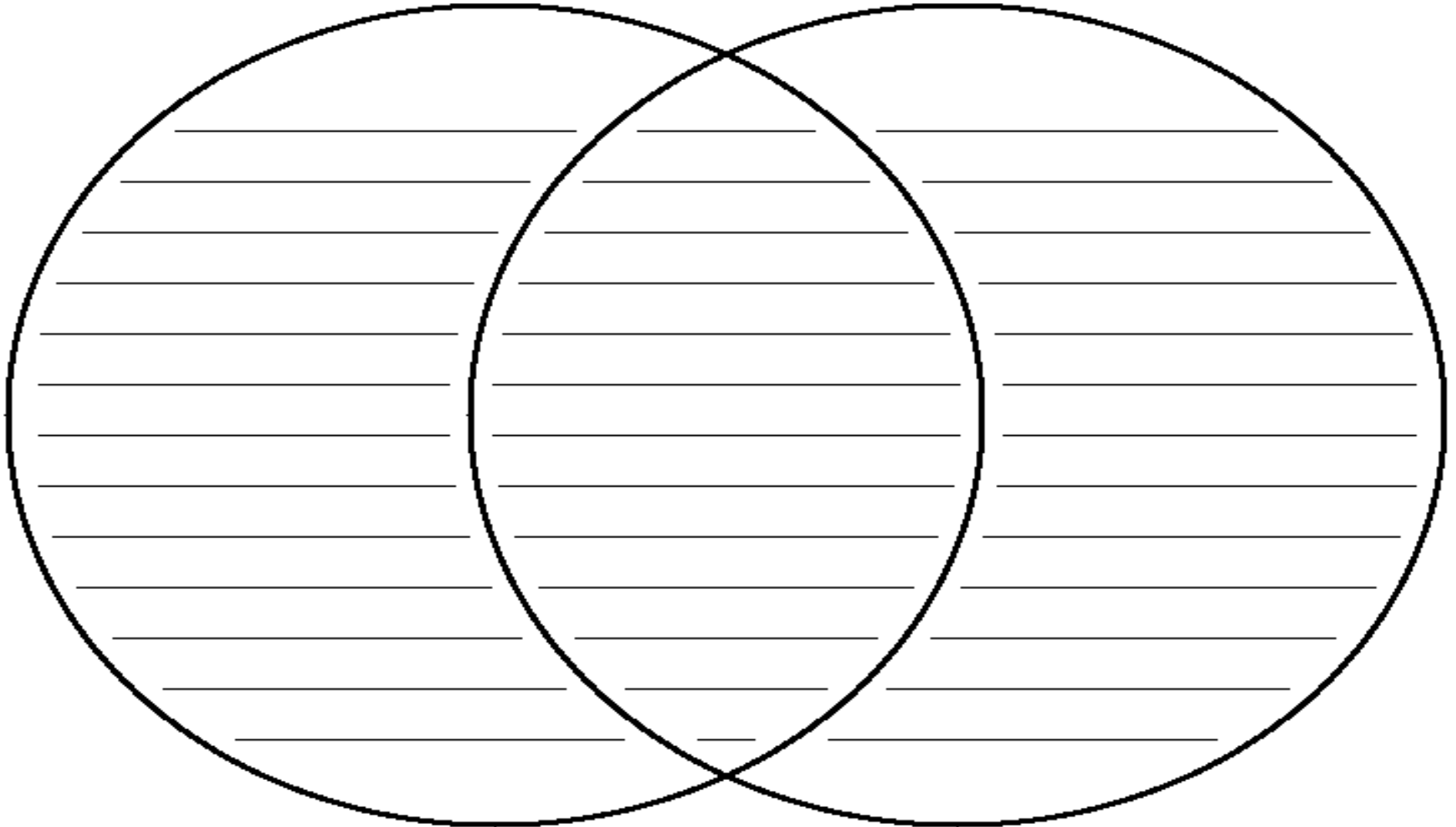
If you were going to add another picture or a chart to this article to help readers better understand an important point, what would it be and why?

Objectives

- I can summarize similarities and/or differences in multiple informational texts

Encyclopedia of Chicago:
Back of the Yards of
Neighborhood Council

Chance the Rapper
donates \$1 million to
Chicago's public schools



Objectives

- I can summarize similarities and/or differences in multiple informational texts
- I can draw conclusions based on multiple informational text

How are people in Chicago making a difference right now? What strategies do they use to make the city a better place?

Strategy 1 Description:	Strategy 2 Description:	Strategy 3 Description:
Image:	Image:	Image:
Strategy 4 Description:	Strategy 5 Description:	Strategy 6 Description:
Image:	Image:	Image: