

CITIZEN OF THE CLASSROOM

Purpose

To give students a clear comprehension of their responsibilities as learners.

Approach

To develop students' skills and at the same time focus their attention on the kinds of behavior, values, and structures that will enable them to make progress in the classroom.

Getting Started

To begin the approach, discuss what citizenship means--in terms that will make sense to the students. Ask them to give examples of good citizenship. Then involve them in one or more of the following projects--or projects you create/adapt to develop this theme.

Social Studies/Decision-Making

MAKE A WORKING CLASSROOM CONSTITUTION

Give students a list of the basic rules of the classroom. For each rule, ask students to identify the purpose. Then have them make a list of related policies and procedures.

Values Outcomes: Students will comprehend the rationale for the rules that govern the room.

Skills Outcome: Students will identify relationships between objectives and required behaviors.

Social Studies/Geography

GEOGRAPHY OF THE CLASSROOM

Have students make a map of the classroom. Have them use a key to identify the areas of the room in which specific rules apply.

Values Outcomes: Students will reinforce their comprehension that most classroom rules apply in every area of the room.

Skills Outcome: Students will reinforce their skills in map-making. They also may use scale, which would reinforce their skill in the use of map scale.

Math: Number Value/Responsibility

MAKE A TABLE OF CLASSROOM RESOURCES

Take inventory of the materials in the classroom, and have students each take responsibility for one kind of item. For example, have one student (or a pair) take responsibility for the counting and classification of magazines or books.

Values Outcome: Students comprehend that there are a limited number of classroom resources and they should be kept in order.

Skills Outcome: Students will gain abilities in constructing and interpreting numerical tables.

Math: Graph/Motivation

MAKE A BAR GRAPH TO RECORD PROGRESS, SUCH AS ATTENDANCE, COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK, ANY OTHER ACADEMIC OR SOCIAL ACTION THAT CAN HELP THE INDIVIDUAL STUDENT AS WELL AS THE CLASS.

Have each student set a goal. Then students make a combined graph to record the investment to achieve that goal.

Values Outcome: Student is reinforced daily on positive self-image.

Skills Outcome: Student reinforces graphing skills.

Language Arts/Critical Thinking

CLASSROOM CASE STUDIES

Have students write situations that take place in a classroom--focus on having them write about a change or a choice. Ask students to complete a situation or write the entire story. Or ask them to rewrite a story about a classroom situation. Emphasize that individual choices affect all the citizens in a community.

Values Outcome: Students recognize individual responsibility.

Skills Outcome: Students develop narrative writing skills.

Language Arts/Critical Thinking

CLASSROOM VALUES

Have students write about their classroom in a persuasive way. They should write about the things that the members of the classroom value and how those values are expressed in the way people act and the way the classroom looks. Then they should illustrate their writing with posters about the classroom values. They can draw pictures or cut them out of newspapers.

Values Outcome: Students will clarify the Classroom Values.

Skills Outcome: Students will improve their persuasive writing skills.

YOUR TURN--Continue to add to this collection of activities that build skills and classroom citizenship.