

Project Citizen Tips from the Experts
(Notes from PC Institute 2001)

Choosing the Class

- Respectful-Good Citizens
- Lottery/Draw Class out of a hat
- Not necessarily Honors class

Choosing The Topic

- Most time consuming part of the Process

Length of Time for Final Project

- When should you start
- 1st semester-Spread it Out
- Need Time to get Responses back from letter writing
- Don't start too late
- Varies

Research

- Print 2 copies of research

Groups

Options

- 1-Students pick their own groups (can backfire)
- 2-Best Buddies work together
- 3-Pre-selection of committies
- 4-Voting or choosing board to work on

Boards

- Problem-whole class split into groups at beginning of process (Helps with team building)
- Work as a whole class
- Design group
- Cover Boards-neat things you can do
- Everything written on board goes into binder (make 2 copies)

Binders

- Make sure you've duplicated work-you will need it when you are practicing oral testimony
- 2" binder
- Sheet Protectors
- Round sticky labels for page numbers
- Selectively choose research

Reflections:

- What did kids get out of it
- “Tell me one way you are different now than you were before you started this project.”

Oral Testimony

- 8 ½ x 11 sheets are allowed to be held during the prepared testimony (Not during follow-up question time)
- Practice, Practice, Practice
- Make “cheat-sheet” with a big font

Practice Suggestions

- 1 group can present to other groups
- Use all 4 minutes of your time
- Ask lots of follow-up questions
- Prepare students to tell judges that another group may answer their follow-up question

Appearance/Manners

- Students should dress “professionally”

Presenting the Hearing

Can be done:

- In class
- Before the school board
- To the city council
- Etc.

This program is a lot of work but it is fun!

Tips from Gary

- Make sure your boss and fellow teachers are on your side
- Watch your due dates
- Utilize parent volunteers
- Student and parent commitment
- Leave days built up
- Field trip information
- Health office notified
- Spend Project Citizen money carefully