



LITERATURE CONNECTION ACTIVITY

Teen Power Politics by Sara Jane Boyers

OBJECTIVE

Students implement service projects to create positive change in their communities.

MATERIALS

Teen Power Politics – Sara Jane Boyers

GET READY

- ✓ Secure several copies of *Teen Power Politics* for your students.
- ✓ Divide your students into small groups of four or five.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Give each group a copy of *Teen Power Politics*. Have each group turn to page 66, which is the beginning of the section on activism and service.
- ✓ Have each group read the quote on the top of the page. Instruct each group to interpret the quote.
- ✓ Have a member from each of the groups share their interpretation of the quote.
- ✓ Next, instruct the groups to investigate the work other teens have done to address community problems. Each group should evaluate a case study. These case studies can be found on pages 67, 71, 73, 75, 77, and 79. Assign each group to one of these examples. The groups should capture what the problem was, how the student(s) addressed the problem, and what the result of the activism/service was.
- ✓ Have each group present their case study to the class.

- ✓ Inform your students that they are going to create positive change in their community, just as did the student(s) in their case studies – each group will identify a community problem and implement a service project that helps address the problem they identified.
- ✓ Have the groups read the rest of the section on activism and service. Tell the groups to use the material in the book to help them brainstorm community problems and possible service solutions.
- ✓ Have the groups weigh the problems and solutions they identified using the questions on top of page 69. The groups should use these questions to:
 - ✓ Identify the community problem that most affects them
 - ✓ Design a service solution to the identified problem, and
 - ✓ Consider the impact of their proposed service solution
- ✓ Have the groups research their community problem and submit service proposals to you. Help the groups shape their projects within the bounds of reasonable scope and available resources.
- ✓ Have each group implement their service projects.
- ✓ Have the groups report on their service projects just as they did their case studies.



LITERATURE CONNECTION ACTIVITY (continued)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Are there any commonalities to the case studies we examined? If so, what are they?*
- ★ *Did your group have challenges in identifying a community problem to focus on? If so, what were they?*
- ★ *Did you know a lot about the problem before your group created a service plan? If not, how did you educate yourself about the problem?*
- ★ *Did your group have challenges in designing a service project? If so, what were the challenges?*
- ★ *What was difficult about implementing your service project? How did your group overcome these difficulties?*
- ★ *What kind of impact did your group make? Do you think you made a difference? How so?*
- ★ *What did you learn over the course of your project? Did you develop any valuable skills?*