



Addressing School or Neighborhood Community Needs

This lesson is designed to help students explore ways to address identified school or neighborhood community needs.

Essential Question

How can I apply the things I've learned to make a difference in my community?

Guiding Question

How can we work together to begin to address some of the needs we've identified in our school or neighborhood community?

Objectives

- Students will begin to identify ways to meet needs in their school or neighborhood community.
- Connect their schoolwork and learnings from Unit 1-4 to their goals for making a difference.

Advance preparation

- Prepare student materials (including Needs handouts collected from Day's 1 and 2)
- Distribute large sticky notes and markers
- Room has space for a connection circle

Materials/Resources

- PowerPoint Slideshow 5.3 (adapt as needed)
- Chart paper to take notes on student reports
- Large sticky notes and markers
- Talking piece

Student Materials

- "What are my school community's needs?" and "What are my neighborhood community's needs?" completed handouts (collected on Days 1 and 2)

Vocabulary

- No new vocabulary

Do Now

2 min.

Slide 1: Students write or draw a response to the following: How can you use your particular talents and skills to make a difference for people in your circles of concern?

Introduction (Framing/Overview)

8-10 min.

1. (Slide 3) Play the following video on young people making a difference in their community, “Marley Dias and #1000blackgirlbooks” (stop at minute 3:52):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eV-tMaj1VXA>

Ask students to share their reflections on this video as well as the “Young Changemakers” video shown at the end of the previous lesson. Emphasize that changemaking is the culmination of thoughtful pre-work and planning and is one piece of a long-term effort toward a larger goal.

2. Give students overview of the day’s agenda (slide 4):
 - Sharing findings from information gathering efforts as recorded in their Community Observation Report
 - Brainstorming ways to meet school or neighborhood community needs
 - Large group idea sharing.

Activity 1: Sharing Findings from Info Gathering

10 min.

3. Show slide 5: Ask students to share what they learned from their information gathering efforts as recorded on their Community Observation Report. Some may want to show photos or play videos (it would be good to be able to project these if possible).
4. Write the findings on a poster, and ask students whether they see any overarching themes in their findings.

Student Reporting**Whole Class Discussion****Activity 2: Brainstorming Ways to Address Needs**

20-25 min.

5. Slide 6: Tell students they will brainstorm in teams about ways to meet school or neighborhood community needs and what skills they will need to do this. Each student should choose either the “What are the needs of my neighborhood community?” or “What are the needs of my school community?” sheet and individually completes Columns C-E on ways to meet needs and skills they could draw on to do this. (Point out the skills listed at the bottom of each sheet.)

Team Discussion

NOTE: For Column E (“What skills will you need?”), students may refer to their identity charts posted on the Community Wall (from Unit 4 Lesson 1) if needed.

6. Slide 7: Ask students to share their ideas in a class-wide discussion.

Generate a list of ideas to post on the wall (students may write ideas on large stickies and teacher can add for those who just share orally).

**Whole
Class
Discussion**

NOTE: A list of potential ideas is included on a sheet at the end of this lesson if students are having trouble generating ideas.

Closure

5 min.

Show slide 9: “Be the change that you wish to see in the world”—Mahatma Gandhi

Ask students, “What encouragement do Gandhi’s words give you for the community project you are thinking about?” After a few seconds, ask for a volunteer to begin sharing and for others to join in sharing as they desire.

Thank students for their participation, and share how exciting it is to be part of their journey. **Tell students that in the following lesson they will learn some ways to begin structuring their ideas into a specific volunteer project plan. They will turn their project plan into a formal proposal that will be shared with the class at the end of the unit.**

EXIT TICKET – Have students return their “What are the needs of my school community?” and “What are the needs of my neighborhood community?” sheets for safekeeping, and their “Community Observation Report” if completed.

List of Ideas for Volunteer Projects to Address Community Needs**School + Neighborhood**

Create welcoming cards for new students or neighbors
Volunteer to pick up groceries for a sick neighbor
Write and deliver a thank you note to school cafeteria workers and janitors
Walk through the neighborhood to clean up
Request and monitor official recycle bins from your local environmental office
Develop a plan for peer tutoring, mentoring, or support to submit to principal
Plan a school beautification club.
Design a plan for a book club (Manga, Percy Jackson, ...) to get younger students excited about reading (to be pitched to principal)
Plan a bake sale to raise money for a school or community need
Creating anti-drug and/or bullying posters

Community

Deliver donations to food pantry or clothing to local charitable organization
Donate arts supplies to a day care
Sew blankets for a homeless shelter or animal refuge
Volunteer to help prepare meals or serve at a homeless shelter
Join youth-led conversations/ opportunities to be heard in the community
Form a team to work in a City Farms/Urban Gardens program
Write letters to a government official about an important issue

State and Country

Support veterans in need by donating used items to [Purple Heart](#)
Create a [Red Cross campaign](#) to meet a local or regional need
Run an [Alex's Lemonade Stand](#) for children's cancer research
Color [cheerful drawings](#) to share with seniors, hospital patients, troops overseas, or anyone in [need of a smile](#)

Planet Earth and people of the world

Observe a "Zero Day" when you do not use a single item that can generate trash.
Attend a multicultural event
[Join Youth Climate Lab](#) to support young people around the world in their efforts to re-imagine a healthy climate for our world