

Lesson 3: The Structure of City Government

Focus Questions:

What is the structure of a city government? What does the local government do?

Activity # 1 Tapping Prior Knowledge - Laws in Our Local Community

Discuss with the students that one job of local government is to make laws. Ask students, “What are some laws you have to follow as kids?” Brainstorm some laws that exist in their community of San Diego. Examples might include:

- Must wear helmets when riding bikes or skates
- Cannot drive until age sixteen
- Must wear your seatbelt in a moving automobile
- Littering is prohibited
- Cannot drive faster than the speed limit
- Children must go to school
- All dogs must have a license

Discuss with students why these laws were made. What would happen if these laws did not exist?

Activity # 2 City Job Description Cards

Materials needed: a copy for each pairs of student of *City Government Description Cards* (Handout #3.1a).

Step 1: Make a list of the following jobs on the chalkboard and have the students fill in the appropriate job with its description on the *City Government Description Cards* (Handout #3.1a). (Note: The jobs listed below are also listed at the top of Handout #3.1a.)

City Manager or Mayor	Police
Parks and Recreation	City Council
Fire - Rescue	City Planning/Development
City Attorney	City Clerk
Finance	Public Works

Distribute a copy of the *City Government Description Cards* (Handout #3.1a) to each pair of students. Be sure to use the version that does not have the name of the job identified for each set of tasks. (Handout #3.1b is included as an Answer Key.) Have students write in the job title for description.

Step 2: Conduct a gallery walk where students walk around the room to observe how the other pairs matched their job titles and job descriptions. Upon return to their seats, students may rearrange any of their job titles and job descriptions.

Step 3: Using a document camera or an overhead transparency, display the *City Government Description Cards* (Handout #3.1a). Lead a discussion about the responsibilities of each job category.

Activity # 3 Summary Writing: The Structure of Government

Materials needed: a copy for each student of *The Structure of Government* (Handout #3.2). Access to reference materials such as Harcourt's *Reflections* and activities completed earlier in this unit.

Prompt: Write a summary of the role of rules and laws in our daily lives. Compare and contrast the basic structures of local and federal government. Include at least 10 academic content vocabulary words from the list below.

List of Academic Content Vocabulary:

anthem	government	President
appoint	House of Representatives	primary source
ballot	flag	public service
border	judge	Representative
branches	judicial	responsibility
citizen	jury	rights
citizenship	justice	San Diego
city	landmark	Seal
City Hall	law	Senate
Common good	lawmakers	Senator
Congress	legislative	services
constitution	local	Statue of Liberty
council	mayor	Supreme Court
country	mayor-council	tax
county	memorial	volunteer
court	monument	vote
elect	nation	United States
election	patriotism	Washington D.C.
executive	patriotic symbol	White House

Assessment:

- Match job titles for city government with the appropriate job descriptions (Handout #3.1a)
- Write a summary of the role of rules and laws in our daily lives. Compare and contrast the basic structures of local and federal government. Include at least 10 academic content vocabulary words from the list below.

City Government Description Cards

Directions: Fill in the appropriate job with its description on the City Government Description Cards below. Use the following job titles: City Manager or Mayor, Police, Parks and Recreation, Fire - Rescue, City Council, City Planning/Development, City Attorney, City Clerk, Finance, Public Works.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In charge of running the city on a daily basis • Organizes work people do • Makes sure people are following the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People vote for people to be on city council • Says when city budget is okay • Does planning for the city • Listens to people
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps city council understand the laws • Helps city solve problems about laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gets ready for days when people vote in the city • Takes care of certificates and important papers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects people and property • Teaches people how to be safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts out fires • Gives first aid • Makes sure buildings are safe from fires
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes plans for new buildings and parks • Makes sure buildings and houses are safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes care of cleaning water and sewers • Works on building streets and putting up traffic signs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds parks • Organizes sports and other programs for community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps track of the city's money • Spends city's money

City Government Description Cards

City Manager of Mayor	City Council
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In charge of running the city on a daily basis • Organizes work people do • Makes sure people are following the rules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizens vote for people to be on city council • Says when city budget is okay • Does planning for the city • Listens to people
City Attorney	City Clerk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helps city council understand the laws • Helps city solve problems about laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gets ready for days when people vote in the city • Takes care of certificates and important papers
Police	Fire - Rescue
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects people and property • Teaches people how to be safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puts out fires • Gives first aid • Makes sure buildings are safe from fires
City Planning/Development	Public Works
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes plans for new buildings and parks • Makes sure buildings and houses are safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Takes care of cleaning water and sewers • Works on building streets and putting up traffic signs
Parks and Recreation	Finance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Builds parks • Organizes sports and other programs for community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keeps track of the city's money • Spends city's money

The Structure of Government

Standard 3.4

Prompt: Write a summary of the role of rules and laws in our daily lives. Compare and contrast the basic structures of local and federal government.

Include at least 10 academic content vocabulary words (from the list below).

List of Academic Content Vocabulary:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| anthem | government | President |
| appoint | House of Representatives | primary source |
| ballot | flag | public service |
| border | judge | Representative |
| branches | judicial | responsibility |
| citizen | jury | rights |
| citizenship | justice | San Diego |
| city | landmark | Seal |
| City Hall | law | Senate |
| Common good | lawmakers | Senator |
| Congress | legislative | services |
| constitution | local | Statue of Liberty |
| council | mayor | Supreme Court |
| country | mayor-council | tax |
| county | memorial | volunteer |
| court | monument | vote |
| elect | nation | United States |
| election | patriotism | Washington D.C. |
| executive | patriotic symbol | White House |

INDICATORS	ADVANCED	PROFICIENT	BASIC	BELOW BASIC
USES ACADEMIC LANGUAGE ACCORDING TO HISTORY CONTENT	Student shows a deep understanding of historical language that is woven in an interesting way whether written or oral.	Student shows an effective use of historical language that is woven in an interesting way whether written or oral.	Student shows a limited use of historical language whether written or oral.	Student shows little or no use of historical language whether written or oral.