

Responsible Citizens

bring
change
to mind

Why?

The goal behind this activity is to identify their responsibilities as citizens in a select community. When we recognize their responsibilities as members of a community, it can help cultivate community, develop empathy, respect and a sense of commitment to improve the community.

How To

1. Discuss the different communities students are a part of (i.e. example, classroom, school, city, state, province, country, etc.), and how, as members, each individual has rights and responsibilities.
2. Choose one community that all students are a part of. Have students work in pairs to brainstorm their responsibilities as members of that community.
3. Discuss with the group their responses:
 - a. How does having empathy and respect for others make you a better citizen in your community?
 - b. Why is it important to listen to others in your community?
 - c. How can showing compassion for others help your community?
 - d. Why is it important to be able to understand other people's perspectives when you are part of a community?
4. Create a "Bill of Responsibilities" for the chosen community that identifies specific things citizens are responsible for in order to improve their communities.

Materials

- Individual paper or chart paper
- markers/pens

Tips

This activity pairs well with the "Advocating for change" and/or the "Building Empathy" presentations.

Timeline

activity time: 15-20 min

Courtesy of Second Steps