



Lesson plan - Having your say

Learning objective

Learn how you can have your say in getting things changed for the better in your community

Key question

How straightforward is it for citizens to get their voice heard and changes made?

Success criteria

- Describe how you can use the democratic process to get your voice heard
- Identify some of the channels you can use to present your case
- List some of the actions you would take to get started

Introduction to the learning

Revise as a class by question and answer:

Elections: local, general, European
Who can vote; secret ballots; voting systems

Main body of lesson

In small groups decide on some change they want made, at school, in the community, in the country or in Europe.

Get the groups to work in pairs and defend their ideas or accept the other group's ideas and agree on one thing to change.

The combined group to elect a spokesman. Spokesman presents the arguments for the change

The class debates each proposal. A vote is taken by a show of hands (only vote for one proposal) or if time permits, by ballot box.

Challenge and extension activities

Choose as a topic for a change in the law affecting the whole country or one affecting Europe, and describe the channels they will use to try and get the change made.

Support activities

Match the proposal with the organisation that will make the change if it can be persuaded to.

- Change the voting age to 16
- Get your household waste bins emptied every week
- Take only five subjects at GCSE
- Get airlines to pay a tax on air pollution

Silent work

Write down in a few words what you have learnt about getting laws changed. And guess what success you might have with your topic and how long it might take.

Feedback and assessment

Teacher questioning to individuals and groups.
Presentation of ideas to groups followed by debate.
Answers in writing.

References

Department for Education
Citizenship programmes of study 2013

[Citizens of Europe: The European Parliament](#)