Stakeholder Interviews

Grade Level: All
Time: Several days

Objective:

- Develop power maps of stakeholders.
- Identify stakeholders’ interests.
- Identify problems within an issue by conducting interviews of experts and stakeholders.

Curricular Connections: Civics, Language Arts

Materials: List of community contacts, phone and e-mail access, transportation, copies of Interview Cover Sheet (www.publicachievement.org/TeacherGuide/Activities/InterviewCoverSheet.pdf)

Procedure:

1) Teams brainstorm and create a power map of the people and organizations effected by and affecting their issue, identifying the relationships and connections between them.
2) Teams conduct research to identify “stakeholders” level of influence.
3) Teams compile a final list of stakeholders, identifying their interest and power in the issue.
4) Discuss interviewing skills, phone tips, questioning, etc.
5) Students conduct interviews of experts and other stakeholders and present their information to the rest of the team. Students may want to ask questions like:
   - How does this issue affect you? What is your interest in this issue?
   - What suggestions do you or your group have for our group?
   - How can we best influence this policy?
   - Has anyone attempted to make these changes before us?
   - What might be some obstacle that we will face?
6) Teams discuss information and develop a list of problems that need to be addressed in stage 4.

Reflection:

- Team discussion of information to identify specific problem to work on in stage four.
- Students respond to interviews and discussion in their journals.
- Teams can present information to the rest of the class as a way of updating them about their project.
- Students send thank you notes to the people interviewed. They may want to include summaries of their projects, pictures, or videotapes of what they have accomplished so far.

Assessment:

- Interviews
- Short papers responding to the interviews.
- Power Maps