

LAUSD Sample Project

 [LAUSD Service Learning Guidebook](#)

LAUSD Sample of Civic Engagement

Urban Problems Project

Project Description - While studying urbanization in the United States in the 1900s, students will look at the problems that existed in urban societies then and now. They will research the most serious problems. Students will invite speakers who advocate solutions to these problems to speak to their class. Based on their knowledge of the problem, students will write a letter to a local official suggesting a solution.

Community Need(s) - There are many problems in urban society that students confront every day. This project serves a community need by allowing students to voice their opinions about how these problems might be solved. It will provide local officials with the view point of their constituents and may lead to beneficial changes.

Community Partner(s) - County and City government, community based organizations, student government class.

Student Voice:

- Students will select the problem about which they will write.
- Students will suggest a solution to the problem.
- Students will determine who would be the best person to solve this problem.

California Content/Skill Standard(s)

History/ Social Science - 11.2 Students analyze the relationship among the rise of industrialization, large-scale rural- to-urban migration, and massive immigration from Southern and Eastern Europe.

Reading Comprehension - 2.3 Students verify and clarify facts presented in other types of expository texts by using a variety of consumer, workplace and public documents.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions - 1.1 Students demonstrate control of grammar, paragraph and sentence structure, diction and usage.

1.2 Students produce legible work that shows accurate spelling and correct use of the conventions of punctuation and capitalization.

Project Components

- Students make a list of problems that existed in American cities in 1900.
- Students decide which problems that existed then still exist.
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- Students select a problem about which they will write.
- Students do research on the problem in order to recommend a solution.
- Students find out what city or county official deals with the problem.
- Students write a business letter to a city or county official recommending a solution.

Reflection Prompts:

- Students will write an essay on what they learned about city and county government from doing this project
- Students will speculate on the likelihood of the problem being solved and recommend follow up activities to make certain a solution is obtained

Outcomes and Assessments:

- Students will exhibit an understanding of the problems that were created by urbanization by being able to list the problems that existed in 1900.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of city and county government by being able to select the correct government official to whom to write.
- Students will demonstrate an ability to use research to create a solution to a problem.
- Students will illustrate their ability to write a coherent persuasive essay by completing a letter to a government official in which they recommend a solution to a city problem.

Accommodations/Support for Diverse Learners:

- Appropriate tasks will be assigned to all students.
- Students will be encouraged to work collaboratively and respect the talents of each of the members of their group.
- Locations will be accessible. When not available alternative sites will be sought.
- Each member of the group will have an equal opportunity to make significant contributions to the project.
- Students with IEPs will be identified and individual needs will be addressed.