

CLASS 4

In the previous class students discovered a place for the Student Council within the school community and saw that it was a way for their voice to be heard. In this class students will explore the possible functions of a Student Council and are asked to rate these functions in order of importance to them. (The functions of a Student Council are usually decided in consultation with the Board of Management, Principal and staff.)

ACTIVITY

- Photocopy the 3 sheets headed Functions of a Student Council - enough for one set to each group of 3 to 4 students.
- Cut the sheets up into the individual cards.
- Break the students into groups of three or four and distribute a set of cards to each group. Give each group at least one pair of blank cards.
- Ask the students to match the key word with the explanation.
- Inform the students that the blank cards are there for them to fill in anything that they think might be missing from what is given.
- When the students have matched the cards. Correct with them.
- Ask if students have filled out any of the blank cards and what they have put on them.
- Still working in their groups ask the students to rank in order of importance the functions of the Student Council. They can include any of the blank cards if they have used them.
- Whilst students are discussing the ranking draw a long line across the board from left to right. Mark one end with most important and the other with least important.
- Give each group some bluetack and when they have finished ranking ask each group individually to come up to the board and place their functions in order of importance.
- Ask the groups to give some reasons why certain things ranked higher than others.
- From the board, work out the most important functions of the Student Council as decided by the students.

FOLLOW – UP ACTIVITY

1. If you have a Student Council in your school you could have a discussion around whether the students feel that the student council is carrying out the important functions as defined by them in the ranking exercise.
2. If you don't have a student council you could have a discussion around which of the functions were the most important and whether they think that the school could benefit from a student council. What would their recommendations be for a Student Council?

FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT COUNCIL

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FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT COUNCIL

ESTABLISH



THE STUDENT COUNCIL ESTABLISHES LINKS WITH OTHER SCHOOLS AND THEIR STUDENT COUNCILS

HELP



THE STUDENT COUNCIL HELPS SCHOOL DISCIPLINE BY BEING INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING OF SCHOOL POLICIES E.G. ANTI-BULLYING POLICY...

IMPROVE



THE STUDENT COUNCIL HELPS TO IMPROVE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TEACHERS AND STUDENTS BY KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN ALL OF THE TIME

SUGGEST



THE STUDENT COUNCIL SUGGESTS IDEAS AND COMES UP WITH PLANS TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR STUDENTS

INVOLVE



THE STUDENT COUNCIL GETS ITSELF INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY (OR THE WIDER WORLD) E.G. MEALS ON WHEELS, TIDY TOWNS, FUND-RAISING...

FUNCTIONS OF A STUDENT COUNCIL

LISTEN



THE STUDENT COUNCIL LISTENS TO WHAT STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL HAVE TO SAY

REPRESENT



THE STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTS THE STUDENTS AND IS THE VOICE FOR THEIR OPINIONS AND IDEAS

CONSULT & CO-OPERATE



THE STUDENT COUNCIL CONSULTS AND CO-OPERATES WITH THE ALL OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY ON ISSUES THAT ARE OF CONCERN TO THE STUDENTS

INFORM



THE STUDENT COUNCIL KEEPS THE REST OF THE SCHOOL INFORMED ABOUT THE ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED, DECISIONS TAKEN AND EVENTS PLANNED THROUGH THE USE OF NOTICEBOARDS, SCHOOL MAGAZINE, NEWSLETTER...

INVESTIGATE



THE STUDENT COUNCIL ACTIVELY TRIES TO FIND OUT THE OPINIONS, IDEAS AND CONCERNS OF STUDENTS BY CARRYING OUT SURVEYS AND QUESTIONNAIRES