

City Council Simulation: Dogwood City's Proposed Curfew Ordinance

Overview

In this experiential activity, students will gain an understanding of the role of city councils, the responsibilities of council members, and the relevance of council decisions to individual citizens. Assuming the roles of city council members or special interest groups, students will participate in a city council simulation in which council members must decide whether to pass a curfew ordinance for the city's young residents.

Grade

10

NC Essential Standards for American History: The Founding Principles, Civics & Economics

- FP.C&G.2.1 - Analyze the structures of national, state and local governments in terms of ways they are organized to maintain order, security, welfare of the public and the protection of citizens (e.g., federalism, the three branches, court system, jurisdictions, judicial process, agencies, etc.)
- FP.C&G.2.2 - Summarize the functions of North Carolina state and local governments within the federal system of government (e.g., local charters, maintain a militia, pass ordinances and laws, collect taxes, supervise elections, maintain highways, types of local governments, etc.)
- FP.C&G.2.6 - Evaluate the authority federal, state and local governments have over individuals' rights and privileges (e.g., Bill of Rights, Delegated Powers, Reserved Powers, Concurrent Powers, Pardons, Writ of habeas corpus, Judicial Process, states' rights, Patriot Act, etc.)
- FP.C&G.2.7 - Analyze contemporary issues and governmental responses at the local, state, and national levels in terms of how they promote the public interest and/or general welfare (e.g., taxes, immigration, naturalization, civil rights, economic development, annexation, redistricting, zoning, national security, health care, etc.)
- FP.C&G.3.1 - Analyze how the rule of law establishes limits on both the governed and those who govern while holding true to the ideal of equal protection under the law (e.g., the Fourteenth Amendments, Americans with Disabilities Act, equal opportunity legislation.)
- FP.C&G.3.2 - Compare lawmaking processes of federal, state and local governments (e.g., committee system, legislative process, bills, laws, veto, filibuster, cloture, proposition, etc.)
- FP.C&G.3.3 - Analyze laws and policies in terms of their intended purposes, who has authority to create them and how they are enforced (e.g., laws, policies, public policy, regulatory, symbolic, procedural, etc.)
- FP.C&G.3.4 - Explain how individual rights are protected by varieties of law (e.g., Bill of Rights, Supreme Court Decisions, constitutional law, criminal law, civil law, Tort, Administrative law, Statutory law and International law, etc.)

Essential Questions

- What is the purpose of a city ordinance?
- What is the role of a municipality's city or town council?
- What are the responsibilities of council members?
- What factors do policy makers consider when making decisions?
- How do the decisions of council members affect individual citizens?
- How can individual citizens play a role in the decisions made by their city council?

Materials

- A reading on the role of city councils, such as *Local Government in NC* (optional), available online at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/publications/books/local-government-north-carolina-fourth-edition-2012-0>

- Link is accurate as of October 2016. If the link doesn't work, search for "Local Government in North Carolina Gordon Whitaker" to find the updated link.
- City Council Instructions, attached
- Stakeholder Instructions, attached
- Proposed City Curfew Ordinance, attached
- Meeting Agenda, attached
- Create a Poster and Create a Bumper Sticker, assignments and rubrics attached
- Resource person, such as a local councilmember (optional)
 - Contact the local government official of your choice 2-4 weeks in advance of this lesson to explain the activity and to ask for assistance in providing students knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of local government officials. (It is important this person does not come to give a "speech," but rather is prepared to engage with the students as they prepare for the simulation and participate in dialogue with the class about his/her role in local government decision making). After making an initial contact, follow up with an e-mail including the date, time, location, parking arrangements, school procedures for guests, and a complete set of materials for the activity. It is highly recommended to invite a resource person when doing this activity, not only provide valued assistance, but also to give your students a chance to interact with and learn from a local government official.

Student Preparation

It is important students have a basic knowledge of city councils, their roles, and procedures before conducting this simulation. Teachers may want to assign a reading prior to this lesson on city councils, such as Chapter 2 of *Local Government in North Carolina*, available in PDF format at <https://www.sog.unc.edu/publications/books/local-government-north-carolina-fourth-edition-2012-0#!/> Also, many local governments televise their city council meetings, and some have meetings available on the Internet for viewing. Teachers may want to have students view such a meeting before participating in this simulation to help them understand Council procedure in reality.

Duration

60-90 minutes

Procedure

Preparing for the Simulation

1. As a warm up, facilitate a discussion of **curfews**:
 - Do you have a curfew? If so, what is it and who is it imposed by? What is your feeling regarding your curfew?
 - Why do you think adults often impose curfews on young people? If you had children, would you impose a curfew on them? Why or why not?
 - Do you think the government has the right to impose curfews? Why or why not?
2. Distribute the attached *Proposed City Curfew Ordinance*. Ask a student to read it aloud while everyone follows along. Discuss:
 - What is a **city ordinance**? For what purpose are ordinances passed?
 - What ordinance is being considered in Dogwood City according to this draft?
 - Who in Dogwood City do you think will oppose this proposed ordinance and why?
 - Who might support this ordinance and why?
 - What are some ordinances currently in place in your own city?
 - What are the roles and responsibilities of a **city council**? What are their responsibilities in grappling with a decision such as this ordinance? What types of things do you think influence a council's final decision on a matter such as this proposed ordinance? (*The city or town council makes decisions for the municipality, carries out those decisions, manages a budget, and has authority to levy taxes. In most cities and towns with populations over 1,000, the council hires a City Manager, who oversees the municipality's day-to-day operations.*)

3. Tell students that they will be learning about these very issues by participating in a city council simulation. Tell students that they currently live in the fictitious Dogwood City and that they will be participating in a city council meeting. The purpose of the city council meeting is to discuss whether or not a curfew for youth ages 17 and under should be instated in Dogwood City, and if so, what the stipulations of that curfew will be. Tell students that each of them will be participating as either a city council member or a community member.
4. Divide students into five groups. Group One should include 5 students; this group will be assuming the role of Cardinal City's Mayor and Council members. Group's Two-Five can consist of any number of evenly divided students; these groups will be assuming the roles of various community stakeholders.

Give groups the appropriate attached handouts, being sure to hand out a separate role to each member of the City Council group. Give students 5 minutes to read their instruction sheets silently. Then, summarize the process, accepting any questions students may have once you are finished:

- **City Council:** (Provide these five students with *City Council Instructions* (each with their own role), *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*, and *Meeting Agenda*, attached) Under Mayor Coates's leadership, you will spend the next 20 or more minutes preparing for your City Council meeting. First, introduce yourselves to one another (in character). Then, review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City* and based on the beliefs of the City Councilmember assigned to you, each of you should discuss your initial opinions of the proposed ordinance. Finally, review the *Meeting Agenda* which notes all the citizens who will be presenting to you today. As a council, create 2-3 follow-up questions to ask each group after their presentation.
 - **Citizen Groups:** (Provide these students with *Stakeholder Instructions*, *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*, and *Meeting Agenda*, attached) You will spend the next 20 minutes developing a presentation to the city council in which you share your views on the proposed curfew ordinance. Your group must create an organized, creative, and motivational presentation that will convince the council to vote according to your beliefs as described in your instructions. Also, you should spend some time reviewing the other citizen groups that are on the agenda and inferring what their stance may be (use the *Meeting Agenda*) so that you are prepared to respond to anyone who may have opposite views as you.
- **Teacher Note:** If a resource person is joining your class for this activity, introduce him/her to the class and allow him/her to speak briefly about their occupation. Let students know that this person is here to serve as a resource for them in terms of local government and can also offer tips on how to prepare for a successful meeting.
5. Review your expectations for respectful group work and allow the students to prepare for the simulation in their groups. Circulate around the room to assist groups as they prepare, giving periodic time warnings. This simulation is designed to be entirely student lead, with the student playing the Mayor to lead the simulation. During the preparation phase, the teacher and/or resource person should discuss appropriate procedure with the Mayor so he/she knows how to call the meeting to order, make introductions, etc. (See also the Mayor's instruction sheet.)

The teacher and/or resource person should also work with the council members and coach them on realistic procedure and council member behavior, as well as spend time with each special interest group offering advice on the presentations they are preparing and the types of things council members like to hear and see. (Many North Carolina cities and towns televise their council meetings, or make them available for online viewing. Teachers may want to show such a clip to students so that they have a sense of true council procedure.)

Conducting the Simulation

6. Remember, this simulation is designed to be entirely student lead, with the student playing the Mayor leading the simulation. During the simulation, assist this student in moving things along when needed, but try to allow the students to have control of the simulation as much as possible. Once all groups are ready, arrange the room so that the Mayor and Council members are facing the groups of presenters.
7. Project or hand out and explain the meeting format:

City Council Meeting Format

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Mayor calls meeting to order and gives overview | 1-2 minutes |
| Presentation from Dogwood City Police Department | up to 5 minutes |
| Follow-up questions from City Council | 2 minutes |
| Presentation from East Dogwood High School Student Government Association | up to 5 minutes |
| Follow-up questions from City Council | 2 minutes |
| Presentation from Dogwood City School's Parent-Teachers Association | up to 5 minutes |
| Follow-up questions from City Council | 2 minutes |
| Presentation from Dogwood Merchant's Association | up to 5 minutes |
| Follow-up questions from City Council | 2 minutes |
| Mayor leads open deliberation of City Council (optional) | up to 10 minutes |

8. The teacher should review expected behavior for the simulation, noting expectations such as:
 - Remain respectful at all times and encourage one another.
 - Try your best and take the simulation seriously.
 - Listen when others are speaking. Do not discuss your presentation while other groups are presenting.
 - Maintain order and professionalism throughout the hearing, whether you agree with what is being said or not.
 - No name calling, eye rolling, smacking teeth, disruptive comments, etc.
 - Have fun!
9. Once the expectations are clearly defined, ask the Mayor to call the meeting to order and conduct the simulation.
10. After all groups have presented and been questioned by council members, and if time permits, the Mayor can call a brief 3 minute break, in which presenting groups can discuss and prepare a 1-2 minute closing statement/summary. If time does not permit, the Mayor should thank all presenters for their time and close the public comment section of the meeting. At this point, there are several options on how to end the simulation:
 - The Mayor can lead the Council in an open deliberation regarding the proposed curfew. Each Councilmember would state their current opinion of the ordinance, discussing which of the presenters affected their opinion. Presenting citizen groups should only listen at this point.
 - The Council members could take a vote on where they currently stand regarding whether to pass/amend the curfew ordinance, or to reject it.
 - Based on the presentations, have all students discuss how they would vote if they were on the Council and why, either as a class discussion or perhaps in a written assignment.

Debriefing the Simulation

11. After the simulation has ended, have students applaud themselves for their hard work and debrief using the attached worksheet *Debriefing the Cardinal City Council Simulation* and/or the discussion questions below:
 - What is your opinion of the Council's decision? Explain.
 - Were any of you representing opinions that you did not agree with? Explain.

- City Council, what led you to make the decisions you made? What factors influenced you? Is there anything anyone could have done differently that would have changed your mind?
- What factors made some presentations more successful than others?
- Imagine this decision was made by your own City Council for implementation in your own town. Would you support it? Why or why not?
- Those of you who presented to City Council, what do you think the best part of your presentation was and why? How would you change your presentation to improve it for next time?
- What skills are important when presenting to City Council members? (*Discuss presentation skills such as being prepared, speaking clearly, being brief and concise, etc.*)
- Consider the process you went through to prepare a presentation for City Council. Why is it important to be prepared, organized, and practiced before your presentation? Were you preparing an actual presentation to present to our real City Council, what other steps might we need to take in preparation? For example, why might we want to research members of City Council and have an understanding of their backgrounds and areas of interest?
- Why is it important to consider what the opposite view might be when preparing a presentation for city council?
- If you were actually serving on City Council, what other factors might influence you that were not necessarily represented in this activity?

12. Discuss with students how it is often the local level of government that has the most direct impact on our lives (local government agencies pick up our trash, provide places for recreation, has council members that set the ordinances we must abide by, etc.) Yet, local elections in North Carolina often have very poor turnout, ranging between 10%-13% on average! Discuss with students:

- Why is it important for citizens to participate in the election process of their city council members?
- Why is it important to be aware of the decisions your local elected council members are making?
- In what ways may citizens participate in their local government?

Explain to students that citizens can be very important factors in the decision-making process of their local governments. Tell them that part of their responsibility as citizens is to voice their opinions on issues of public concern. Through letters, phone calls, petitions, blogs, visits to representatives, etc., citizens' voices *can* be heard. Instruct students to return to class the following day with a brief letter to the city council proposing some sort of change in their city. Encourage them to read that day's newspaper or look at pending legislation of their city's website for ideas.

Additional Activities

- Have students create a bumper sticker or poster advocating for or against the curfew ordinance based on their individual opinions. (See the attached project descriptions and rubrics.)
- Attend a City Council meeting or watch a taped meeting.

Differentiation

Students with special needs

- Ensure that students are placed in mixed ability groups.
- Students who do not work well in small groups may work alone. Give them the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance*, and tell them that they are a City Council member who must decide whether to pass the ordinance, amend the ordinance, or not pass the ordinance. Have them write out their response and reasoning.

AIG

- Have students develop a presentation for their local city council on an issue of their choice.



D R A F T
Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City

SECTION 1. The Municipal Code of Dogwood City is hereby amended to include the following curfew ordinance for all youth ages 17 and under:

- (a) It will be illegal for persons 17 and under to be out of their homes between the hours of 10:00 PM and 5:00 AM Sunday through Thursday.
- (b) It will be illegal for persons 17 and under to be out of their homes between the hours of Midnight and 5:00 AM on Friday and Saturday.
- (c) Violators will be fined \$100.
- (d) Young people chaperoned by parents or guardians are exempt and will not be fined.

SECTION 2. This ordinance will become effective upon approval of the Council.

City Council Instructions

Mayor Coates

About You:

You have been serving as the Mayor of Dogwood City for three terms and have largely dedicated yourself to the economic development of Dogwood City. You feel a city's future is in its constant development and economic progression.

Thus, while you do believe it is important for Dogwood to protect its residents, you are concerned that the ordinance as currently proposed does not make exceptions for minors who are going to or returning from employment. Without the 15-17 year-old part time work force, many local businesses may be negatively impacted. You have a son who works at the local cinema, and he often does not return home until 12:30 AM on weekend nights since the theatres must be cleaned after the last movie ends. It would be unfair to him and other working youth to take away those late evening work hours.

That said, you feel that unless young people are out working, they certainly do not need to be running around on the streets after dark. They should be home doing school work or sleeping. Admittedly, if the curfew is instated, you wonder if 10:00 PM isn't a bit early for the curfew to be set at. You think extending the hour to 11:00 PM might be a bit more reasonable.

Instructions:

You and your fellow council members are hearing from various groups of community members to determine whether or not to pass a curfew ordinance for the youth (ages 17 and under) of Dogwood City. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, you must also determine the details and stipulations of the ordinance. Today, as you listen to citizen opinions, your responsibility is to make a decision for the common good of Dogwood City.

1. Review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*. Based on your views as described above, discuss your first impressions of the proposed ordinance with your fellow council members, as well as any changes you may like to see made.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group's stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting to begin, YOU, as the Mayor, will call the meeting to order by greeting the council members and welcoming the citizens in attendance. You will then lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Finally, you will review the purpose of today's meeting by summarizing the curfew ordinance and the decision the Council must make. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, you will call each group up to present. Each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions to the Council (Councilmember Bradley will time presentations and ensure groups do not go over their time limit).
4. After each presentation, you will open the floor for questions from council members of that presenting group. You and the Council may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision. (Again, Councilmember Bradley will ensure each group is questioned for no more than 2 minutes.)
5. Once all groups have presented, as the Mayor, thank all presenters for their time, and begin an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate whether to pass the curfew ordinance. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, then you must determine if you will pass the ordinance as originally proposed, or if you will make changes to it. As the Mayor and council members, you may have different ideas regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus, you, as the Mayor, will make the motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

City Council Instructions:
Councilmember Bradley

About You:

You are serving your fourth term on the Dogwood City Council and have been reelected largely due to the support of local educational groups (such as the PTA) since you are a known advocate of improving school resources. Being a former teacher and a mother of three, you value the importance of having quality schools in Dogwood City, and always vote for more money to be allocated to education.

Due to your commitment to the youth of Dogwood City, you are very much in favor of passing a curfew ordinance. You feel that Dogwood City residents have a responsibility and a right to ensure that the environment is safe and secure at all hours of the day and night for all ages. While you understand that some community members, particularly youth, may strongly oppose such an ordinance, you feel anything that will improve the safety of Dogwood City's children should be given full consideration. If this ordinance protects one, two, or three kids, you feel the ordinance is worth it.

Instructions:

You and your fellow council members are hearing from various groups of community members to determine whether or not to pass a curfew ordinance for the youth (ages 17 and under) of Dogwood City. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, you must also determine the details and stipulations of the ordinance. Today, as you listen to citizen opinions, your responsibility is to make a decision for the common good of Dogwood City.

1. Review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*. Based on your views as described above, discuss your first impressions of the proposed ordinance with your fellow council members, as well as any changes you may like to see made.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group's stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting, the Mayor will call the meeting to order, lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and review the purpose of today's meeting. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions regarding the proposed curfew to the Council. YOU are responsible for timing each group and ensuring they do not go over the 5 minute limit. Once a group is at 4 minutes, give them a 1 minute warning.
4. After each presentation, the Mayor will open the floor for you and fellow council members to question the presenting group. You may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard in the presentation. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision. (Once more, watch the clock and ensure each group is questioned for no more than 2 minutes.)
5. Once all groups have presented, the Mayor will lead you in an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate whether to pass the curfew ordinance. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, then you must determine if you will pass the ordinance as originally proposed, or if you will make changes to it. As the Mayor and council members, you may have different ideas regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus the Mayor will make a motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

City Council Instructions
Councilmember Gonzalez

About you:

You joined the Dogwood City Council five years ago, though your career of public service began when you were 18 years old and you enlisted in the United States Army. Through your experience in the military, you learned that discipline is one of the most important traits for success. You are thus astonished that the City Council is considering passing a curfew ordinance, since this is an issue that parents should be handling themselves. It is not the City Council's right to take on the role of disciplinarian, even if certain guardians are not doing their job in setting proper limits on their children. Further, it is your understanding that neighboring cities who have curfew ordinances imposed do not always uphold the ordinance since police find themselves dealing with more pressing issues rather than a teenager leaving a club too late. Thus, young people get the message that it is OK to break the law. You feel that more important than setting a curfew in Dogwood City is setting stricter consequences for young people caught breaking the law.

Instructions:

You and your fellow council members are hearing from various groups of community members to determine whether or not to pass a curfew ordinance for the youth (ages 17 and under) of Dogwood City. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, you must also determine the details and stipulations of the ordinance. Today, as you listen to citizen opinions, your responsibility is to make a decision for the common good of Dogwood City.

1. Review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*. Based on your views as described above, discuss your first impressions of the proposed ordinance with your fellow council members, as well as any changes you may like to see made.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group's stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting, the Mayor will call the meeting to order, lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and review the purpose of today's meeting. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions regarding the proposed curfew to the Council.
4. After each presentation, the Mayor will open the floor for you and fellow council members to question the presenting group. You may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard in the presentation. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision.
5. Once all groups have presented, the Mayor will lead you in an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate whether to pass the curfew ordinance. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, then you must determine if you will pass the ordinance as originally proposed, or if you will make changes to it. As the Mayor and council members, you may have different ideas regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus the Mayor will make a motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

City Council Instructions
Councilmember Sherman

About you: The oldest member of the Dogwood City Council (you are 76 years old), and the longest serving member (you are currently serving your tenth term), you have been reelected largely due to your frugal attitude towards city spending. Growing up, you heard many stories from your parents about what they endured during the Great Depression. Thus you are constantly advocating against anything that may result in the raising of taxes, as you feel it is important that Dogwood City citizens can keep their money in their pockets. For this reason, you are opposed to the proposed curfew ordinance, largely because you question how passing the curfew will be funded. It will cost money to inform the public and to have signs created and posted. You also doubt the police department has the manpower to ensure the curfew ordinance is followed, and you worry that the ordinance will thus burden the City financially. It would be a mistake to pass an ordinance that could not be enforced.

Also, you disagree with the idea that a fine will be imposed upon any youth breaking the curfew. In many cases, such a fine would fall to the parents and guardians to pay, thus the punishment would not even be endured by the offending youth. Further, you feel no consideration has been given to what will happen if the fine is never paid, or what will happen if a young person is continually caught for breaking the curfew ordinance and how their record will be effected. All in all, the proposed curfew sounds like something that will be more of a burden than a protection to the adult citizens of Dogwood City.

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1. Review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*. Based on your views as described above, discuss your first impressions of the proposed ordinance with your fellow council members, as well as any changes you may like to see made.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group's stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting, the Mayor will call the meeting to order, lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and review the purpose of today's meeting. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions regarding the proposed curfew to the Council.
4. After each presentation, the Mayor will open the floor for you and fellow council members to question the presenting group. You may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard in the presentation. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision.
5. Once all groups have presented, the Mayor will lead you in an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate whether to pass the curfew ordinance. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, then you must determine if you will pass the ordinance as originally proposed, or if you will make changes to it. As the Mayor and council members, you may have different ideas regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus the Mayor will make a motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

City Council Instructions
Councilmember Norris

Instructions: You are serving your fifth term on the Dogwood City Council, and also serve as the Director of the Dogwood City Chamber of Commerce. You passionately support the proposed curfew ordinance, since you are responsible for proposing the original idea for the curfew to fellow council members. Having lived in Dogwood City your entire life, you care very deeply about your home town and its residents. You have been concerned regarding the fact that crimes committed by those under the age of 18 has risen each year in Dogwood City since 2003. In fact, just last year your car was stolen out of your driveway at 1:00 AM by two deviant sixteen year olds. They were apprehended in the midst of their “joy ride” after you phoned the police, but the leather interior of your BMW was already covered in the food and soda they had picked up at a local drive-thru and ruined.

You feel that a curfew ordinance is a great step in reducing the crime rate. A curfew keeps youth off the streets at hours when they really have no business being out anyway. This will keep young people from committing or being the victim of crimes. Also, as the Chamber Director, you are constantly trying to find new ways to encourage tourism. You feel that a curfew ordinance will reduce crime thus enhance the positive reputation of Dogwood City, increasing tourism and commerce.

Instructions: You and your fellow council members are hearing from various groups of community members to determine whether or not to pass a curfew ordinance for the youth (ages 17 and under) of Dogwood City. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, you must also determine the details and stipulations of the ordinance. Today, as you listen to citizen opinions, your responsibility is to make a decision for the common good of Dogwood City.

1. Review the *Proposed Curfew Ordinance for Dogwood City*. Based on your views as described above, discuss your first impressions of the proposed ordinance with your fellow council members, as well as any changes you may like to see made.
2. As a group, review the *Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda* which lists each group that is signed up to present to you today. Infer what you think each group’s stance will be on this issue. Create at least two questions to ask each presenting group after their presentation. These questions may change based on what you hear in the presentations.
3. Once it is time for the City Council meeting, the Mayor will call the meeting to order, lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and review the purpose of today’s meeting. Then, following the meeting agenda that you received, each group will have up to 5 minutes to present their opinions regarding the proposed curfew to the Council.
4. After each presentation, the Mayor will open the floor for you and fellow council members to question the presenting group. You may refer to the questions you previously created, or ask questions based on new information you heard in the presentation. Remember, you need to gather all of the information you can in order to make an informed decision.
5. Once all groups have presented, the Mayor will lead you in an open council session in which you and your fellow members deliberate whether to pass the curfew ordinance. If you decide to pass a curfew ordinance, then you must determine if you will pass the ordinance as originally proposed, or if you will make changes to it. As the Mayor and council members, you may have different ideas regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. You must work through this using respectful debate, negotiation, and compromise, and come to consensus within 10 minutes. If you are unable to come to consensus the Mayor will make a motion to continue the discussion at the next council meeting.

Stakeholder Instructions

Dogwood City Police

Your group represents the **Dogwood City Police Department**, and your goal is to convince City Council to **PASS** the proposed curfew ordinance. As a department, you feel the ordinance is essential to keep the children and neighborhoods of Dogwood City safe. When young people are allowed on the streets late at night, they are vulnerable to guns, gangs, and drugs. A recent study conducted by your department found that the number of violent crimes committed by those under 18 has risen nearly every year since 2003. Thus, this ordinance can deter crime both committed by and against juveniles. In fact, as of 2005, 146 of 200 U.S. major cities have some form of a curfew law. It is important Dogwood City do what works and follow the example other cities have set.

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a...Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. Using the information above as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed curfew ordinance.
 - b...Answer the following questions in your presentation...
 - + Why do you want council members to pass the curfew ordinance?
 - + How will the passing of the curfew ordinance improve life in Dogwood City? Who will benefit and how?
 - + How will a curfew be effective in reducing crime and increasing safety in Dogwood City?
 - + Why should council members vote according to your beliefs over those opposing you?
 - c...End with a convincing conclusion that will make the council remember your presentation
2. As you develop your presentation, consider what the other citizen presenters might say in their presentations. Be prepared to argue why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer.
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **support the proposed curfew ordinance**. Good luck!

Stakeholder Instructions

East Dogwood High Student Government Association

Your group represents the **East Dogwood High Student Government Association**, and your goal is to convince City Council to **REJECT** the proposed curfew ordinance. First and foremost, your group feels passing this curfew ordinance would be a violation of your Constitutional rights. A curfew ordinance would violate young people's First Amendment protection of freedom of speech and association, their Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches and due process, and their Fifth Amendment right of equal protection.

This curfew would restrict youth from participating in bona fide school and community sponsored events such as dances, youth club meetings, church gatherings, part-time employment, etc., since many times such activities run later than 10:00PM. The curfew also does not address the summer months, when young people are out of school. Your group feels that punishing everyone for the deviant behavior of a few is not fair.

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:

a...Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. Using the information

above as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you

expect the council members to do regarding the proposed curfew ordinance.

b...Answer the following questions in your presentation...

+ Why do you want council members to reject the curfew ordinance?

+ How will the passing of the curfew ordinance negatively impact Dogwood City?

+ How will a curfew be ineffective in reducing crime and increasing safety in Dogwood City?

+ Why should council members vote according to your beliefs over those opposing you?

c...End with a convincing conclusion and group created slogan that will make the council remember your presentation

2. As you develop your presentation, consider what the other citizen presenters might say in their presentations. Be prepared to argue why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.

3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer.

4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **reject the proposed curfew ordinance**. Good luck!

Stakeholder Instructions

Dogwood City Schools Parent-Teacher Association (PTA)

Your group represents the Dogwood City Schools PTA, and your goal is to convince City Council not only to **PASS** the curfew ordinance, but to **EXTEND it to daytime hours** as well. You are requesting that the city council ordinance include an additional provision that children 17 and younger be banned from public places between the hours of 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM on school days. This will allow police to ticket any child who is supposed to be in school.

Currently, statistics show that 31% of ninth graders in Dogwood City will not graduate. While you support the curfew during night time hours to protect the safety of Dogwood City residents, you also feel a daytime curfew is needed to protect the future of Dogwood City's youth. By making it illegal for young people to be anywhere in public other than the classroom while school is in session, youth will be unable to skip school so easily.

Your group feels it is important to set strict guidelines in your city regarding when young people can be out and about. Children have no business being out at 10:00 PM on a school night, nor should they be missing school to spend a day at the arcade. This curfew ordinance will make it easier for parents to enforce responsible rules, since the entire community of Dogwood City will be backing those rules up. Parents will have more power to ensure the safety and success of their children.

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:
 - a...Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. Using the information above as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you expect the council members to do regarding the proposed curfew ordinance.
 - b...Answer the following questions in your presentation...
 - + Why do you want council members to pass and expand the curfew ordinance?
 - + How will the passing and expansion of the curfew ordinance improve life in Dogwood City? Who will benefit and how?
 - + How will a curfew be effective in reducing crime, increasing safety, and improving school performance in Dogwood City?
 - + Why should council members vote according to your beliefs over those opposing you?
 - c...End with a convincing conclusion and group created slogan that will make the council remember your presentation
2. As you develop your presentation, consider what the other citizen presenters might say in their presentations. Be prepared to argue why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.
3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer.
4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **support and extend the proposed curfew ordinance**. Good luck!

Stakeholder Instructions

Dogwood Merchant's Association

Your group represents the **Dogwood Merchant's Association**, and your goal is to convince City Council to **REJECT** the proposed curfew ordinance as currently written. Your group is disturbed by the fact that the proposed curfew does not take into consideration the many Dogwood City youth who are employed in the city's various businesses, who will be unable to work their typical hours due to the stipulated curfew hours. This will negatively impact Dogwood City's individual businesses, the city's economy as a whole, and many family incomes.

Further, many businesses rely on the income generated by their young customers, such as movie theatres and restaurants. Movies often let out after 10:00 PM, and restaurants often serve young clients late night meals and snacks. This revenue will be lost if the curfew ordinance is passed.

1. Work together to develop a 3-5 minute presentation to City Council. Your presentation should:

a...Begin with an introduction and overview of your stance regarding the proposed curfew ordinance. Using the information

above as a guideline of your group's views, expand this information into an argument in which you clearly state what you

expect the council members to do regarding the proposed curfew ordinance.

b...Answer the following questions in your presentation...

+ Why do you want council members to reject the curfew ordinance?

+ How will the passing of the curfew ordinance negatively impact Dogwood City?

+ How will a curfew be negatively impact Dogwood City's economy?

+ Why should council members vote according to your beliefs over those opposing you?

c...End with a convincing conclusion and group created slogan that will make the council remember your presentation

2. As you develop your presentation, consider what the other citizen presenters might say in their presentations. Be prepared to argue why voting in accordance with your beliefs will have more of a positive impact on Dogwood City than what those opposing you are requesting.

3. Anticipate what questions council members might have of you so that you are prepared to answer.

4. Select 1-2 group members to present your stance to City Council members. The rest of the group will be responsible for assisting in answering questions the City Council will ask you after your presentation is finished. Remember, your goal is to get the City Council to **reject the proposed curfew ordinance**. Good luck!



Dogwood City Council Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Hearing on Proposed Curfew Ordinance

- Dogwood City Police Department
- East Dogwood High School Student Government Association
- Dogwood City School's Parent-Teachers Association
- Dogwood Merchant's Association

IV. Open deliberation on Proposed Curfew Ordinance

Name: _____

Debriefing the Dogwood City Council Simulation

1. Based on previous knowledge and this experience, what are the roles and responsibilities of a City Council? How are such local governing bodies relevant to you?
2. What is your opinion of the decision the Dogwood City Council made regarding the proposed curfew? Explain.
3. What factors make some presentations more successful than others? What skills are important when presenting to City Council members?
4. Why is it important when preparing a presentation for City Council to consider possible opposition?
5. What factors actually influence a City Council in the decisions they make?
6. In what ways can individual citizens participate in local government? Why it important to let your opinion be known?

Create a Bumper Sticker and Paragraph

Assignment: Based on your participation in the Dogwood City Council Curfew Simulation, create a bumper sticker representing your view of a curfew for youth. The bumper sticker must contain the following:

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The bumper sticker must contain an original slogan, word, or phrase that expresses an attitude about a curfew ordinance for youth. The slogan must be an expression that is effective and convincing to its intended audience.
- / 20 Points The bumper sticker must contain an appropriate visual image or symbol.
- / 10 Points The overall work must be creative and clearly show to its viewer that great effort was put forth in creating and completing the bumper sticker.

You must also write a paragraph explaining your bumper sticker and its goal/purpose. The paragraph must:

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The paragraph must explain why you chose the text you did as well as the visual image and exactly what the bumper sticker means.
- / 20 Points The paragraph should also explain the target audience. (Example: City Council members, local citizens, teens, etc.)
- / 10 Points The paragraph needs to be written in legible pen or typed. You must use complete sentences that connect ideas to receive full credit for the assignment.
- / 100 Points Total Points for this Assignment**

Create a Poster

Assignment: Based on your participation in the Dogwood City Council Curfew Simulation, create a poster advertising your opinion of a curfew for youth. Posters should contain clear information regarding the supporting or rejecting the curfew, a catchy slogan, a visual image, and why/how the community should or should not support a curfew.

Poster Rubric

Possible Points

- / 20 Points The poster must contain an original slogan, word, or phrase that expresses an attitude about a youth curfew. The slogan must be an expression that is effective and convincing to its intended audience.
- / 20 Points The poster must contain appropriate visual images or symbols.
- / 20 Points The poster should contain text that offers details or a summary of the curfew and your opinion of it.
- / 20 Points The poster must contain text that explains how and why the community should or should not support the curfew.
- / 20 Points The overall work must be creative and clearly show to its viewer that great effort was put forth in creating and completing the poster.
- / 100 Points Total Points for this Assignment**