

Neighborhood Building and Police-Citizen Social Harmony 8-Step PBLP (Grades 7-12)

Objective: Students will explore and develop strategies to enhance social harmony between police and citizens in their neighborhood. Through a STEAMS (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies) approach, students will engage in activities that foster understanding, communication, and empathetic relationships between community members and law enforcement.

Round Table

- ❖ **Opening Discussion:**
 - What are some perceptions and challenges regarding police-community relationships in our neighborhood?
- ❖ **Purpose:** To facilitate an open dialogue about current perceptions of law enforcement in the community.

Reflection Point

- ❖ **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can we build trust and improve interactions between police and the community? What successful models exist that we can learn from?
- ❖ **Materials:**
 - Case studies of successful community policing
 - Interviews with local law enforcement and community leaders
 - Journals for students to write their perceptions and possible solutions

Knowledge Setting

Science (S): The Psychology of Trust and Mistrust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Understand the psychological basis of trust and how it can be built or eroded between individuals and institutions.❖ Activity: Study psychological theories related to trust building and apply them to community-police relations.
Technology (T): Communication Technologies in Community Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Explore how technology can be used to improve transparency and communication between police and citizens.❖ Activity: Investigate tools like community alert systems, apps for reporting issues, and the role of social media in community policing.
Engineering (E): Safe Spaces for Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Understand public spaces that facilitate positive interactions between police and citizens.❖ Activity: Evaluate a community center or a public park that includes features encouraging cooperative activities.
Arts (A): Art as a Tool for Dialogue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Utilize art to express and bridge community-police relations.❖ Activity: Research a mural or a series of public art installations that reflect community values and aspirations, including peace and harmony.

Mathematics (M): Statistical Analysis of Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Understand crime statistics and survey data to identify patterns and areas of improvement in community policing.❖ Activity: Explain mathematical models that evaluate the effectiveness of different community policing strategies.
Social Justice (SS): History and Evolution of Community Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Study the development of community policing within the social and historical context of the area.❖ Activity: Research the history of policing in the community and current initiatives aimed at improving police-citizen interactions.

Community Project

Progress Map for Project Delivery

- ❖ **Week 1: Project Proposal**
 - Students create a written proposal outlining the focus of their project and community benefit.
- ❖ **Week 2: Project Approval and Community Engagement Plan**
 - Students submit their proposals and outline how their work will positively impact the community, ensuring alignment with the project's learning objectives and addressing real-world needs.
- ❖ **Week 3: Research Progress Update**
 - Students conduct research and gather data related to their chosen focus area.
- ❖ **Week 4: Draft of Final Project**
 - Students compile their findings into a draft report or presentation.
- ❖ **Week 5: Final Project Refinement and Approval for Implementation**
 - Final feedback is provided, and the projects are presented at a community event involving local leaders and stakeholders.

Science (S): The Psychology of Trust and Mistrust

- ❖ **Project Example:** Conduct surveys and psychological tests within the community to identify key indicators that improve trust between police and residents. Focus on gathering data on community perceptions, experiences with law enforcement, and suggestions for improving interactions. Based on the data collected, create a pseudo "Social Harmony Guide" infographic.

<p>Technology (T): Communication Technologies in Community Policing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Develop a mock digital platform that facilitates communication between police and community members. It should consider features such as incident reporting, community policing event schedules, and educational resources about law enforcement procedures.
<p>Engineering (E): Safe Spaces for Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Design a mock blueprint of a community park or meeting space that incorporates elements conducive to positive police-citizen interactions, such as well-lit walking paths, community bulletin boards, and areas designated for community social events.
<p>Arts (A): Art as a Tool for Harmony Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Design a series of stickers with uplifting messages aimed at fostering harmony between police officers and community members. Each sticker should feature a positive quote or saying that promotes mutual respect and understanding. Distribute these stickers at local entities to visually reinforce the importance of cooperative relationships within the community.
<p>Mathematics (M): Analyzing Data on Community Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Collaborate with law enforcement to develop a "Community Trust Positivity Chart" that visually represents successful community policing over the past decade, emphasizing those that have effectively built trust between law enforcement and community members.

Social Justice (SS): Historical Perspectives on Community Policing

- ❖ **Project Example:** Create a mini-podcast series that features interviews with citizens and police officers who have experienced transformative moments promoting social harmony. Aim to humanize both citizens and law enforcement and inspire positive interactions and mutual understanding between police and community members.

Community Involvement

- ❖ **Objective:** Organize a community forum involving police officers and residents.
- ❖ **Activity:** Plan a panel event that allows for dialogue regarding project details and results.

Assessment

- ❖ **Objective:** Evaluate the project's impact on understanding and relationships between police and citizens.
- ❖ **Methods:** Feedback from participants, surveys pre- and post-event, and reflective essays from students.

Feedback Loop

- ❖ **Activity:** Gather and discuss feedback from both police and community members on the effectiveness of the interaction.
- ❖ **Journal Prompt:**
 - Reflect on what changes you noticed in perceptions and what further steps could be taken to enhance social harmony.

Resume Integration

- ❖ Survey career interest in social justice, community planning, or law enforcement. Discuss how the skills developed in this project—like mediation, community engagement, and event planning—can be valuable in various career paths.

For more 8-Step Project-Based Lesson Plans check out our website at www.steamsinitiative.org

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