The art of making a democratic decision

In this activity, students will experience making a decision democratically as part of a team.

SUGGESTED METHOD

1. Cut out pictures of characters.
2. Divide the students into teams of five or six members.
3. Explain to the students that they will be making a decision as a team.
4. Describe the following scenario:

SCENARIO

Your team’s job is to draft a brief (a set of arguments) in favour of sustainable development. The purpose of the brief is to present a sustainable development vision to the community, suggest how this can be done and what actions to take.

Objectives in drafting the brief:

● To think about and discuss the kind of world we want to live in and see our children living in thirty years from now.

● To take stock of the range of social and environmental issues facing the community.

● To list actions that can be taken to promote sustainable development and a liveable future.

● To submit and present the brief to the authorities and promote your vision within the community.

Some members of the community have expressed their interest in contributing to the reflection and contributing their experience and knowledge to your project. You need to choose three community members whose input would, in your view, be the most valuable to the work of your team.
EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITY
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SUGGESTED METHOD

5. Present the people wishing to contribute to the project by reading the descriptions on the back of the pictures.

6. Ask the different teams to discuss and choose the three people who will best support their work so they can produce the best possible brief.

7. Bring everyone together to review the results of the work by each team.

8. Ask the students questions about the methods their team used to make a democratic decision:
   • Was it easy or difficult to make a decision?
   • Were all the members of the team satisfied with the choice of people from the community?
   • How did you go about making a decision?
   • What obstacles or challenges did you face?
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An engaged artist

An environmental expert

An agronomist

A future CEGEP student
**An environmental expert**

Élyse writes reports for construction projects from shopping centres to shipyards, in which she provides recommendations on how to prevent or reduce damage to the environment. She's well known in both the scientific community and the community where she lives. She sometimes leads environmental workshops in youth centres.

**An engaged artist**

Nathan is recognized for his original works of art featuring the richness of our aquatic ecosystems. His paintings are displayed in various art galleries in Québec and the rest of Canada. He uses colours and textures to communicate his optimistic outlook for the future and inspire others to protect our beautiful planet.

**A future CEGEP student**

Olivier is going to CEGEP next fall. While in secondary school, he was very involved with the student council. He adeptly managed a project aimed at reducing waste in the school cafeteria. At CEGEP, he plans to stay engaged by getting involved with the student association.

**An agronomist**

The city often calls on the services of Jacinthe to embellish its green spaces. She was part of a group that advocated for the forest at the entrance of town to be given protected status. Jacinthe also writes a weekly column for a website specializing in agri-environmentalism. During the summer, she's involved with the community garden.
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A professor-researcher in sociology
A young lawyer living in an eco-neighbourhood
A journalist-photographer
An environmentally-aware mother

IMAGES TO CUT
A young lawyer living in an eco-neighbourhood

Louis-Philippe is a young lawyer. At first, he was attracted to an eco-neighbourhood because it seemed the trendy thing to do. But the lifestyle was a revelation. He appreciates this urban model because of the quality of life it offers its residents, while also allowing them to reduce their use of energy and natural and financial resources.

A professor-researcher in sociology

A reputed expert in the field of social science and the environment, Esther has overseen several research about the green movement and climate change. She has also had numerous articles published in academic journals in which she examines environmental issues from the point of view of business-sector responsibility and social acceptability.

An environmentally-aware mother

Recycling, reusing and composting have been a normal part of everyday life for Marie-Sophie since a young age and she instills in her three children these environmental practices. She’s also very involved in her community, both on the parents’ committee at her children’s school and with the community waste sorting and recovery centre.

A journalist-photograph

Charles’s reports take us to some of the most beautiful natural spaces on the planet. Through his numerous trips abroad, he has been involved in many sustainable development initiatives. He now has a home base in the area where he grew up, where he’s committed to contributing to positive change.