

Local Government Participation Experience

There are many local governing bodies that influence policy for us as citizens. Groups of people make decisions about local issues including everything from your schools to your trash collection. The best thing about this process is that you can watch it all happen. And now, you have a reason to do just that!

Task:

You will attend a minimum of two (2) different local government events and observe the process. You may choose from the following:

- City Council Meeting
- County Council Meeting
- School Board Meeting
- Court Case-call the Monroe County Courthouse to get specific information
- Student suggestion with teacher approval

As you attend these various activities, you should take brief notes regarding what is going on and what topics are being discussed. You will submit these notes with your reflection and article. Note the names of those that make up the governing body. Consider the make up of the group with regard to age, race, gender, and party affiliation. Also take note of how decisions are made. Are votes taken? Does one person make a decision? It is encouraged that you check the web or CATS (Cable Access Television Service-www.catstv.net) to see what governing bodies meet and where those meetings happen to give you some ideas.

You will be responsible for writing a reflection article of each event you attend. This should have two parts. First, you will write a brief summary of the “news” you saw as it would appear in the paper. Be sure to describe what the governing body does in general to open this “article” and what the main points are that were discussed. Secondly, and separately, you will write a short personal reflection on your experience. This reflection should focus on the process and your experience. What did you expect to see? How did that compare to what you saw? Did this experience give you faith in the process? Do you feel that this is a fair and just way to make decisions? .

This is a great chance to see the lawmaking process. Enjoy the opportunity to see our government in action!

Assessment Sheet

What meeting did you attend?

Where did you go for this meeting?

When did you go?

	Self	Instructor
Written Work		
The reflection that describes your experience at the approved event is at least 3 paragraphs and is typed in 12-point font and double spaced.	/10	/10
The reflection is honest, thorough and reflective of sincere effort.	/15	/15
The news summary article is detailed and would be informative to others.	/20	/20
Notes from the event are submitted.	/5	/5

This assignment is due: _____