

Teacher Guide: Civics Video

Purpose: *This guide offers ideas for using **before** and **after** activities to engage students with the Civics Inquiry video.*

Before

Prior to showing the video, introduce and/or review the following:

Civic Inquiry Process

Civic Inquiry: Ask, Think Critically, Solve Problems, Communicate

*Use the Elementary Civic Inquiry visual posted above this guide

Civic Inquiry Concepts

Community: a group of people living in a particular space; review the different communities students are a part of - classroom, school, neighborhood, town, state, country, world.

Public Problem: an issue that affects a community and community members (e.g. pollution, littering, safety, or inclusiveness); different from a private problem which affects individuals.

Civic Inquiry Skills

Multiple Perspectives: look at public issues and problems from different viewpoints; highlight the value of listening during discussions.

Action Plan: list the basic steps needed to take action on an issue - what, who, when, how.

Consider introducing the public problem from the video - *Sometimes students are lonely on the playground during recess* - and having students brainstorm ideas on how to solve this problem.

After

After viewing the video, consider the following activities:

Inquiry Follow Up:

Facilitate a discussion about the Inquiry Process:

- *Why is the issue Pa and Jose identified in their school community a *public problem*?
- *Why is it important to look at public problems from multiple perspectives?
- *Who did Pa and Jose talk to as part of their action plan?
- *Why is communication an important part of the inquiry process?

Skills Follow Up:

Have students create actions plans for a public problem in the community. Consider developing one of the action plans further, and following the action plan as a class to participate in improving the community. Civic inquiry is a great way to foster civic participation, and will encourage students to care about the community around them.

Extension

Read *Maybelle the Cable Car* by Virginia Lee Burton

Civic Action Lesson:

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/be-informed-speak-act-lesson-citizenship-grades-3-C2%96-5>