

Title of Lesson: Organizing Chaos

Curriculum Unit: Organization

Objectives: To identify methods of organizing councils and priorities within the council

Materials:

- Sets of 16–18 random items in a bag or envelope; as many sets as you will have small groups

Directions:

1. Divide the class into small groups of 3–5 students.
2. Give each group a bag with 16–18 small random items. Ask students to organize the items from the bag in a way that makes sense to them.
3. Have each group explain the logic used to organize its collection of items. What system did they use? Ask:
 - How did you decide how to organize the items?
 - What were other methods your group discussed using?
 - What was your group's method of reaching agreement? Consensus? Majority rules?
4. Ask the group to organize the items a second time, this time in order of importance.

Sample Processing Questions:

- How do different perspectives influence this activity?
- Do different perspectives sometimes bring conflict? How do you resolve the conflict?
- How was the second experience with organizing the items different than the first time?
- What are some of the things a council needs to focus on? How do we prioritize these in real life?
- Is it important for members of a student group to agree on priorities?
- How can we apply what we learned from this experience to the way we organize our student council and its projects?

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