Learning More About the Problems the Class Has Identified

Your teacher should divide the class into small study groups of four to six students each. Each group should do the following:

1. Discuss the community problems that came up through the Mapping Your Values and What Is Bothering You? activities.
2. Together, evaluate the importance and relevance of these issues and select one problem to learn more about.
3. On a sheet of paper, list all the issues your group discovered.
4. Show your reaction to each statement using the scale of fist (I do not care) to 5 fingers (I really care).
5. Discuss with your group why you chose your rating for each issue. Feel free to adjust your rating after hearing from your group members and discussing the different perspectives on each issue.
6. Count how many fingers each problem got and write down the group total/rating. The problem with the highest number is the one your group will focus on next.
7. Select one student from your group to present your collective decision to the class and explain the reason behind your choice.

Rating Problems and Narrowing In on Root Causes

List of Community Issues

1. Community issue description: _____
   ○ Group rating: _____

2. Community issue description: _____
   ○ Group rating: _____

3. Community issue description: _____
   ○ Group rating: _____

4. Community issue description: _____
   ○ Group rating: _____

5. Community issue description: _____
   ○ Group rating: _____

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After rating each issue, reflect on how you and your group arrived at your final ratings for each community issue. What factors influenced your decision-making process? Why do you think this particular issue received the highest rating? Use the following sentence stems to share your decision-making process:

- I rated [issue] as [rating] because …
- One reason I chose [rating] for [issue] is because …
- My decision making was influenced by [factor] because …
- I believe [issue] received the highest rating because …

Now that your group has identified a community issue with the most interest or passion behind it, it is time to narrow in on the root cause or some of the root causes of that issue. You can do this by using the "Five Whys" to get to the narrowest point of a problem. Here is an example:

Problem: *My neighbor was in a bad car accident at a local intersection.*

1. Why? *His car was hit by a truck.*
2. Why? *Because the truck did not have to stop at the intersection.*
3. Why? *Because there is not a stop sign or stoplight.*
4. Why? *Because that intersection is part of a busy truck stop.*
5. Why? *Because there is no off-ramp from the highway to that truck stop.*

As a group, ask five "whys" for your highest-rated problem. Record your answers for each why and identify the narrowest root of the problem at the bottom of your five whys before moving on to Step 2 of Project Citizen.

Problem

1. Why?_____

2. Why?_____

3. Why?_____

4. Why?_____

5. Why?_____