

Appendix G

Group handout: Town hall meeting preparations - Government officials

Town hall meeting preparations

You are holding a town hall meeting to discuss changing the school year. See below for the government's proposed changes. At the meeting, many perspectives will be shared from different groups, and it is your job to make a final decision.

School calendar year proposal

You are considering mandating a change to the school year. The long summer break would be eliminated. Instead, students would go to school all year. There would be four breaks consisting of two weeks each during the year: a fall break, winter break, spring break and summer break.

PART A: PREPARE YOUR POSITION

<p>What is your reason for proposing a change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the information on your role card• Conduct some more research to develop your arguments		
<p>PROs and CONs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Start a list of the advantages and disadvantages of your proposal• Think about which groups would benefit and which would not• Add to your list as you hear different perspectives during the town hall	<p>PROs</p>	<p>CONs</p>

PART B: PREPARING QUESTIONS

To make a good political decision, it is important to hear many perspectives and try to balance the interests of different groups. Plan your questions here to help you make a fair decision.

Who will you ask?	What is your question?	Summarize the response

PART C: GROUP REFLECTION

What is your government's final decision?	
Which perspectives did you take into consideration?	
Which groups can be considered the 'winners' based on your government's decision?	
Which groups can be considered the 'losers' based on your government's decision?	
How did your decision balance interests and help to achieve the common good?	
Was this the best method for your government to get input from the public? Why or why not? Consider the strengths and weaknesses of the town hall format	