

Constitution Building in Nepal Simulation Lesson Plan

PREVIEW: In 2008 the Himalayan nation of Nepal involved in drafting a new constitution. This expansion of democracy in action provides a window for students to watch a nation construct a government based upon popular sovereignty. In this activity students will be involved in a simulation in which pairs (or small groups) will draft proposals for the Nepali Constitution that will address specific issues of concern. The class as a whole will play the role of the current Constituent Assembly responsible for approving the final constitution.

OBJECTIVE: The goal of this activity is to promote student comprehension of various concepts of government, the role of special interests and the importance of conflict resolution.

RESOURCE/MATERIALS: PowerPoint on basic history & facts for modern Nepal, numerous constitutions, vocabulary sheet.

ACTIVITIES & PROCEDURES: Place students in pairs (or small groups). Each pair will be assigned the position of a particular special interest group involved in the political process in Nepal (ex. Maoist, environmentalist etc.) The pair will research the topic that concerns them, the position of the group they represent and the goals that group may have (ex... Environmentalist who consider the problem of deforestation as a priority for the new government) They will write a proposal for a constitutional amendment that addresses their challenge. Each pair will explain their challenge and the resolution for a constitutional amendment. A 3-5 minute Q & A from the class debating the relative merits or concerns with the proposal is allowed. The class as a whole participates as the Constituent Assembly. They will vote on each proposal, a 2/3 majority of the class votes are required for approval of the amendment.

ASSESSMENT: The assessment for this activity consists of two parts, each worth 30 points. The first component is the quality of research and persuasiveness of the oral presentation. The second component is the written assessment that identifies their group, defines their position, and establishes their position. This essay must be 1 ½ to 2 pages long, typewritten. It must also use two external references to support their position. One of which **MUST** be the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the other is to be from a constitution of their choice (U.S. Constitution, Ireland's Constitution, etc)