

Stories of Good Practice

St Francis de Sales College, South Australia (A)

Segment 2: The Program

Collaborate

In the video clip, the Studies of Society and Environment Coordinator talks about giving Civics and Citizenship programs a 'local twist'. What is happening in your local community that can provide a springboard for educating and empowering students to take action about an issue that is important to them?

Brainstorm a list of local issues. The local newspaper and community radio are good resources to draw upon with regard to identifying local issues. If you are undertaking a collegial learning activity, use a think-pair-share activity to brainstorm your list.

A think-pair-share strategy enables learners to 'think' first, then to 'pair' with another learner to exchange ideas. The pair then presents to the group, allowing for diverse ideas to be collated.

Consider using a local issue to contextualise student learning in Civics and Citizenship education, and to provide students with real opportunities to take action.

Connect/Collaborate

The Studies of Society and Environment Coordinator also talks about teaching students how to initiate change and how to educate the general public about an issue to get them on board. She talks about students writing letters to the editor and to their local members of parliament.

Use a tool such as an affinity diagram to brainstorm and categorise a list of all the possible ways students can initiate change and educate the general public about an issue. If you are undertaking a collegial professional learning activity, complete this task in a group. You might also like to complete this task with your students.

An affinity diagram is a tool for gathering and synthesising large amounts of information. Record each idea on a separate sticky label. Then categorise the ideas.

Consider ways to authentically include the strategies for initiating change and educating the general public about an issue in your Civics and Citizenship program.

