

Community Problem

Learning Outcome:

Evaluate local, state, and federal government structures, and identify a community issue to be solved.

Bloom's Level: 5 - Evaluating

Students will be first given the assignment in **module 1**.

Students will turn in the assignment after **module 3**.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Assignment:

The student will research the government structures in his/her state, local, and federal government to identify an issue within the community that could be solved using the local government. They will be asked to look at the historical development of American government in order to identify the factors that will impact the community problem and influence the solution to the problem.

Project Components & Descriptions:

For this assignment, select a community problem. Community problems can cover a plethora of economic, social, and political dilemmas. Project topics can include, but not limited to:

- Pollution
- High taxes
- Low wages
- Homelessness
- Rising addiction
- Under-funded schools
- Burdensome regulations
- Crime
- Inadequate emergency services
- Affordable housing
- Decreasing job opportunities

An example would be the declining of a downtown area of a community. Stores are closing, and moving out; no new stores are moving in. We want to revitalize the downtown area. How should we do it? Is there a particular business you think should move in to help your community? Should someone try to start a new business in this area?

Rather than aim for a complete problem list, here are some criteria you may consider when identifying your community problem:

- **Frequency:** The problem occurs too frequently.
- **Duration:** The problem has lasted for a while.

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Cont.

- **Scope or Range:** The problem affects many people.
- **Severity:** The problem is disrupting to personal or community life, and is possibly intense.
- **Equity:** The problem deprives people of legal or moral rights.
- **Perception:** The issue is perceived as a problem

This last criterion -- perception -- is an important one, and can also help indicate readiness for addressing the issue within the community. Keep in mind that what is seen as a problem can vary from place to place, and from group to group in the same place. Although there's no official definition of a community problem, the above examples and criteria should help you begin to name and analyze community problems.

Once a problem is identified, look at the historical development of American government in order to identify the factors that have impacted and still impact the community problem and could influence the solution.

Your submission will need to cover the following areas:

- Justification
 - Apply the criteria listed above: frequency, duration, range, severity, equity, perception.
- Frame the problem
 - State the problem without implying a solution or blaming anyone.
- Analyze the root cause
 - The real cause of a problem may not be immediately apparent. It may be a function of a social or political system, or may be rooted in a behavior or situation that may at first glance seem unrelated. This is where the historical development of American government will be identified.

You may submit this as a text document or a slide show. Be sure to include any references that are needed and use clear and concise writing.