

LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTICUT, 3rd EDITION

Instructor's Guide

Chapter 9

Class Discussion

1. How long are the terms of office for the top elected officials in the students' town? If there is a town manager, how long has he or she been there?
2. What are Robert Rules of Order? Why are they important in running meetings? What would happen if there were no rules of procedure?

Class Assignments

1. What is the ruling political party in the students' town? Does it change that often? Is it the same political party for the Board of Education?
2. Invite the chief executive officer (Mayor, First Selectman, Town Manager) to class to talk about the political process of elections, length of time in office, should there be term limits, and what governs the procedures of the meetings?
3. Obtain a copy of Roberts Rules of order and have students prepare a paper on basics of running a meeting, i.e. who calls meeting to order, agenda, who has right to speak, how to make a motion, how to amend a motion, how to stop debate, number of votes needed to stop discussion, etc. This is a good background for the class project below.

Field Trips-Other Ideas

- Have a class election to form a town council and then have students come up with ideas on some items they have to vote on. Have other students be in favor and against the proposals before the council and how they will be given the opportunity to speak on the proposal. Have one student be the press reporter so he/she can give an objective report on the process that took place. This can take a few classes, but it does get the students really involved. Try and incorporate Roberts Rules of Order into the proceedings (there are condensed versions available). This exercise can take up several classes.