

TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
TOLERANCE.ORG

MIDDLE & UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

AMERICA BY THE NUMBERS

You Are Here

In this activity, you will consider issues that people in a diverse community such as Clarkston might face.

A. THE PLAYERS

Your teacher will assign you one of the following roles:

Ted Terry, mayor of Clarkston

You are a white male, recently elected.
You got your start in politics in 2008.
You have lived in Clarkston for two years.

Ahmed Hassan, council member

You were recently elected to the City Council.
You are a former Somali refugee.
You are a businessman who has lived in Clarkston for 25 years.

Dianne Leonetti, council member

You are a white female.
You have served on the City Council since 2011.
You have lived in Clarkston for 23 years and worked there even longer.

Helen Kim Ho, community advocate

You are an Asian female.
You are an attorney and the executive director of the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center.
You helped get out the vote among Asian residents.

Graham Thomas, Clarkston resident

You are a white male.
You support the incumbent mayor, Emanuel Ransom.
You voted for an immigrant for City Council.

Unnamed refugee, a female not yet eligible to become a citizen

You arrived recently from Bhutan with your husband and two children.
You are just learning about life in the United States.
You hope that your children will be safe and that your family will succeed here.

B. THE ISSUES

Your teacher will assign you one or more of the following issues to consider. Three of the issues are hypothetical. The issue “No More Refugees” actually took place.

No More Refugees

Officials in Georgia ask the federal government to reduce the number of refugees being relocated to the state, which has the seventh-largest refugee population in the United States.

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Rat-infested Residence

Residents of a low-income apartment building complain about rats, roaches and a lack of hot water. Many residents are from other countries and are not yet citizens.

Teachers Wanted

The school board asks to hire four new teachers. Certification in teaching English as a second language is a plus.

Bullying and Bias

Parents report that a group of older white boys has chased immigrant elementary kids home from school, throwing stones and calling them names. This is the second time that this has happened in the last month.

C. THE QUESTIONS

As you consider the problem from your person's point of view, please answer the following questions:

1. What are possible solutions to this problem? _____

2. What are your worries or fears? _____

3. Who will be affected? _____

4. What resources will be needed? _____

5. How will the government, community organizations and individuals be expected to help? _____
