



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## **COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND MAPPING**

BY JIM DAVID

### **Activity Description**

This is a mapping project in which students create a map of the community then identify its strengths and problems. Students can use this activity to help gear their thoughts toward selecting a problem for Project Citizen.

### **Suggested Grade Level**

Upper elementary to high school

### **Estimated Time to Complete**

One to two days (at home)

### **Objectives**

Students will

- identify in writing three strengths and three weaknesses of their community;
- organize ideas into an essay with an introduction, developing paragraphs, conclusion, and appropriate transitions;
- become aware of community-based problems while incorporating mapping skills.

### **Materials Needed**

- Poster board
- Markers
- Copies of the Map Project (below)

## MAP PROJECT

**Goal:** To help students master the following state standard: *Identify and use the basic elements of maps and mapping.*

Due: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. Draw a map from our school to your house.

- A. The map must be on a full sheet of poster board.
- B. The map must include a Key (symbols for red lights, railroads, restaurants, water, etc.).
- C. The map must include a Compass Rose.
- D. The map should be laid out in the right direction.
- E. You must use correct street names.
- F. Label bodies of water near your house.
- G. Show major landmarks (malls, statues, etc.)

### II. Writing about your community

- A. Write an essay about our community. Your essay must include the following:
  - 1. An introduction
  - 2. Three paragraphs about three things that make our community great (each paragraph should contain one example)
  - 3. Three paragraphs about three problems that exist in our community (each paragraph should contain one example)
  - 4. A conclusion.

### III. Grading Scale (100-point project)

- A. Key, 30 points
- B. Compass Rose, 10 points
- C. Correct labeling and direction, 20 points
- D. Neatness, 10 points
- E. Three great things paragraphs, 15 points
- F. Three problems paragraphs, 15 points
- G. Bonus points can be earned for more detailed information and creativeness, 10 points maximum (ie. 3D projects, models, actual pictures, advertisements from places from Map Key)