

Classroom Activity: New Year's Resolutions and Community Service

Level

Intermediate - Advanced

Goals

To develop critical thinking skills and have students think about community service

Materials

- Board games (1 for every group of 4 students. Download [the board game](#) or make your own)
- 1 coin per group.
- Game pieces (one per student)
- A large sheet of paper (or poster) for each group
- A [graphic organizer](#) for each group

Preparation

- Use the [downloadable board game](#) or create your own using a [template](#) with ideas appropriate for your students
- Review the VOA article "[The New Year Begins with Some Resolutions](#)" and create a glossary of words your students are unfamiliar with. Download an [example glossary](#).
- Review the VOA article "[Volunteers Find New Ways to Put Their Helping Hands to Work](#)" and create a glossary of words your students are unfamiliar with. Download an [example glossary](#).

Procedures

1. Introduction	Introduce New Year's Resolutions by reading the VOA article " The New Year Begins with Some Resolutions " as a class. You may want to provide students with a glossary for unfamiliar words.
2. Comprehension check	Ask students to identify three resolutions from the reading. Example answers can include: Graduate from Master's Program, be healthy and happy, find a teaching job, world peace, lead a humanitarian trip to Haiti, do more artwork, get a girlfriend.
3. Extension	After reading, brainstorm with the class ideas for personal resolutions – How can we improve ourselves? What resolutions do you have? Write their ideas on the board. You can use pictures to help generate ideas.
4. Game introduction	After writing several ideas on the board, introduce the game . Demonstrate the game with the entire class. Using the example prompt at the bottom of the game board, play several rounds with the entire class to help them understand the basic rules of the game. Write the questions and the students' responses on the board to provide students additional support.
5. Playing the game	Have students divide into groups of 4 and pass out a game board to each group. Have the students play the game. Ask each group to record their 4 most interesting responses. Download suggested game rules .
6. Game extension	Have each group write their 4 most interesting resolutions from the game on the

	large sheet of paper (or poster) and present them to the class. If time permits, students can illustrate the posters with original artwork. These posters can be displayed around the classroom after the lesson.
7. Follow-up Reading	With your class, read the VOA article " Volunteers Find New Ways to Put Their Helping Hands to Work. " You may want to provide your students glossaries for unfamiliar words. Ask students to identify some of the main aspects of the article. Download example questions and responses.
8. Community service planning	Divide the class into groups of 4, ask students to think of ways that they can help their communities. Give each group a copy of the downloadable Community Service Graphic Organizer. Have students create a plan to do volunteer community service and present their activity to the class.
9. Volunteering	Have the class select one of the volunteer projects to do as a class!

Adapt it to your class

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the spaces on the game to be more appropriate for your class. Download a blank template. • For lower proficiency students, re-write the VOA articles to be more concise with vocabulary familiar to the students or use a section of the article. • If you want to focus on listening skills, have students listen to the VOA articles and give them a transcript to read while they listen. |
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