

Who is Affected?

Grade level: 4-9
Time: 45 minutes

Objectives:

- Identify the causes and the effects of an issue.

Curricular Connections: Civics

Materials: Flip chart paper, markers

Procedure:

- 1) Divide students into small groups assigning each an issue.
- 2) Each group makes a poster for their issue that will show who is causing the problem and who it affects. The posters should have three columns: issue, cause, and effect.
- 3) Answer the following for each heading:
 - a. Issue:
 - What is the issue?
 - Why is it a problem?
 - What might happen if changes are made?
 - What might happen if changes aren't made?
 - b. Cause:
 - How have individuals been the cause of this issue?
 - How have businesses and private organizations been the cause?
 - How have government agencies been the cause of this issue?
 - c. Effect:
 - How does this issue affect the global community?
 - How does this issue affect the environment?
 - How does this issue affect you locally?
- 4) After creating their posters, each group presents their issue to the class. They may want to try to convince the students to choose that issue for a PA project or create comparisons/contrasts between the issues.

Reflection:

- Class discussion regarding causes and effects of issues.

Assessment:

1. Write a fictional story of how this issue came to be and what the future holds for it. Do a 'Choose Your Own Adventure' ending that includes the issue's future with and without the efforts of Public Achievement.
2. A graph or map of how these issues affect each other and how they affect the same groups of community members

Source: Adapted from Jennie Higgins; Earth Force Toolbox, Segment 2