

Neighborhood Building through Citizen and Police Social Harmony 8-Step PBLP (Grades 7-12)

Objective: Learners will explore and develop strategies that promote positive relationships, communication, trust-building, and social harmony between citizens and law enforcement within their communities. Through a STREAMSS (Science, Technology, Reading-to-Research, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, and SEL-to-Social Studies) approach, students will examine the psychological, historical, social, technological, and community factors that influence police-community interactions. Learners will engage in interdisciplinary activities, research, dialogue, creative problem-solving, and community-centered projects that encourage empathy, civic engagement, accessibility, conflict resolution, and collaborative approaches to strengthening safer, healthier, and more connected neighborhoods.

Round Table

- ❖ **Opening Discussion:**
 - What are some perceptions and challenges regarding police-community relationships in our neighborhood?
- ❖ **Purpose:** To facilitate an open dialogue about current perceptions of law enforcement in the community.

Reflection Point

- ❖ **Discussion Questions:**
 - How can we build trust and improve interactions between police and the community? What successful models exist that we can learn from?
- ❖ **Materials:**
 - Case studies of successful community policing
 - Interviews with local law enforcement and community leaders
 - Journals for students to write their perceptions and possible solutions

Knowledge Setting

Science (S): The Psychology of Trust and Mistrust	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Understand the psychological basis of trust and how it can be built or eroded between individuals and institutions.❖ Activity: Study psychological theories related to trust building and apply them to community-police relations.
Technology (T): Communication Technologies in Community Policing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Explore how technology can be used to improve transparency and communication between police and citizens.❖ Activity: Investigate tools like community alert systems, apps for reporting issues, and the role of social media in community policing.
Research (R): Community Research Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Objective: Understand the role of reading, literacy, inquiry, communication, and evidence-based research in examining relationships between citizens, law enforcement, public safety, community trust, and social harmony.❖ Activity: Practice identifying main ideas, supporting evidence, research methods, author perspectives, and evidence-based claims connected to communication, empathy, civic engagement, emotional wellness, community trust, and social responsibility while strengthening

	<p>inquiry, discussion, and evidence-based research skills.</p>
<p>Engineering (E): Safe Spaces for Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: Understand public spaces that facilitate positive interactions between police and citizens. ❖ Activity: Evaluate a community center or a public park that includes features encouraging cooperative activities.
<p>Arts (A): Art as a Tool for Dialogue</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: Utilize art to express and bridge community-police relations. ❖ Activity: Research a mural or a series of public art installations that reflect community values and aspirations, including peace and harmony.
<p>Mathematics (M): Statistical Analysis of Community Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: Understand crime statistics and survey data to identify patterns and areas of improvement in community policing. ❖ Activity: Explain mathematical models that evaluate the effectiveness of different community policing strategies.
<p>Social Studies (SS): History and Evolution of Community Policing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Objective: Study the development of community policing within the social and historical context of the area. ❖ Activity: Research the history of policing in the community and current initiatives aimed at improving police-citizen interactions.

Community Project

Progress Map for Project Delivery

- ❖ **Week 1: Project Proposal**
 - Students create a written proposal outlining the focus of their project and community benefit.
- ❖ **Week 2: Project Approval and Community Engagement Plan**
 - Students submit their proposals and outline how their work will positively impact the community, ensuring alignment with the project's learning objectives and addressing real-world needs.
- ❖ **Week 3: Research Progress Update**
 - Students conduct research and gather data related to their chosen focus area.
- ❖ **Week 4: Draft of Final Project**
 - Students compile their findings into a draft report or presentation.
- ❖ **Week 5: Final Project Refinement and Approval for Implementation**
 - Final feedback is provided, and the projects are presented at a community event involving local leaders and stakeholders.

Science (S): The Psychology of Trust and Mistrust

- ❖ **Project Example:** Conduct surveys and psychological tests within the community to identify key indicators that improve trust between police and residents. Focus on gathering data on community perceptions, experiences with law enforcement, and suggestions for improving interactions. Based on the data collected, create a pseudo "Social Harmony Guide" infographic.

<p>Technology (T): Communication Technologies in Community Policing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Develop a mock digital platform that facilitates communication between police and community members. It should consider features such as incident reporting, community policing event schedules, and educational resources about law enforcement procedures.
<p>Research (R): Community Research Portfolio</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Partner with a local public safety outreach initiative to collect and archive research related to community trust, communication, public safety, and positive citizen-law enforcement relationships within the local community.
<p>Engineering (E): Safe Spaces for Interaction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Design a mock blueprint of a community park or meeting space that incorporates elements conducive to positive police-citizen interactions, such as well-lit walking paths, community bulletin boards, and areas designated for community social events.
<p>Arts (A): Art as a Tool for Harmony Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Design a series of stickers with uplifting messages aimed at fostering harmony between police officers and community members. Each sticker should feature a positive quote or saying that promotes mutual respect and understanding. Distribute these stickers at local entities to visually reinforce the importance of cooperative relationships within the community.

<p>Mathematics (M): Analyzing Data on Community Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Collaborate with law enforcement to develop a "Community Trust Positivity Chart" that visually represents successful community policing over the past decade, emphasizing those that have effectively built trust between law enforcement and community members.
<p>Social Studies (SS): Historical Perspectives on Community Policing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Project Example: Create a mini-podcast series that features interviews with citizens and police officers who have experienced transformative moments promoting social harmony. Aim to humanize both citizens and law enforcement and inspire positive interactions and mutual understanding between police and community members.

Community Involvement

- ❖ **Objective:** Organize a community forum involving police officers and residents.
- ❖ **Activity:** Plan a panel event that allows for dialogue regarding project details and results.

Assessment

- ❖ **Objective:** Evaluate the project's impact on understanding and relationships between police and citizens.
- ❖ **Methods:** Feedback from participants, surveys pre- and post-event, and reflective essays from students.

Feedback Loop

- ❖ **Activity:** Gather and discuss feedback from both police and community members on the effectiveness of the interaction.
- ❖ **Journal Prompt:**
 - Reflect on how communication, collaboration, and community engagement can influence trust and understanding between citizens and law enforcement, and what additional steps could help strengthen positive community relationships and social harmony.

Resume Integration

- ❖ Survey career interests related to community advocacy, public safety, civic engagement, social justice, or law enforcement. Discuss how the skills developed throughout this project, such as communication, mediation, research, collaboration, community engagement, and event planning, can be applied across various career pathways and real-world community settings.

For more 8-Step Project-Based Lesson Plans check out our website at www.steamscentral.org

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