

Roller Blades

Approach: Team

Level: Year 8 only

Resources: Video; committee meeting business agenda; committee meeting notes recording sheet; letters.

Questions/instructions

We'll start this activity by watching a short video clip which shows some roller bladers having a problem.

Show video.



Dear School Council,
I'm glad we can roller blade at school. I keep on being crashed into, and it's spoiling the fun. Could the council please do something about it?
Yours sincerely,
Riyeeka Rumene

Dear School Council,
We are allowed to ride our roller blades at school, but it's a real shambles. Can something be done about it?
Yours sincerely,
Susan Smith

I also have some letters from some of the roller bladers to the school council.

I want you to imagine that you are the school council, and you have been given the job to sort out this problem. You have five things to do, which are written on this card. I'll read them through:

Dear School Council,
I have been hurt at least 3 times by roller bladers. I know it's fun, but it is also dangerous. Something needs to be done about it.
Yours sincerely,
Anthony Brown

Show and read the agenda.

1. Decide on the problem.
2. Think of ways to fix the problem.
3. Work out how you will let all roller bladers have a say about how you think the problem should be fixed.
4. Decide what you will say in reply to the letters.
5. Agree on 3 really good reasons why the council thinks there should be rules.

During your meeting, you will need to write brief notes or minutes. At the end of your meeting, I want you to tell me what you have decided. Each person in the team should help to describe your decisions. You have about 10 minutes, starting now. Here is the sheet for writing down your meeting notes and the letters to the council.

Give students the recording sheet *Committee Meeting Notes* and the letters, and allow about 10 minutes for discussion.

Now imagine that I am a reporter for the school newspaper, and I am going to interview the school council. I will ask you the five questions on your card, and I want you to take turns in telling me what you have decided.

Statement of the problem:

		% responses	
		y4	y8
full			15
partial			64
very limited			21

Suggestions for fixing problem:

full			31
partial			51
very limited			18

Suggested ways to get input from roller bladers:

full			19
partial			53
very limited			28

Ideas for replying to the letters:

full			14
partial			45
very limited			41

Reasons for rules:

full			28
partial			58
very limited			14

Overall quality of responses:

very good			9
good			42
fair			46
poor			3

Quality of participation/interaction:

very good			27
good			41
fiar			25
poor			7

Commentary

In this problem solving task which was contextualised as a school-related issue, the majority of teams managed only partial to very limited responses to the question concerning problem clarification and the activities seeking strategies for managing the problem. The general quality of responses was almost equally divided between those that were good to very good, and those rated fair to poor.