

COMMUNITY DECISIONS

Community Development Team Members: _____

Our school lies within an area designated as a renewal area. Our city has organized a Community Development Advisory Committee made up of community members, business leaders, and city government officials to come together to recommend what should be done with the vacant building in our neighborhood. After completing a community needs assessment survey, our class will compile a list of possible solutions. Your development team will order the final list using the *Visual Ranking Tool*, taking on the perspective of a group within our community. We will vote on the top three solutions and present them to the Advisory Committee at its next meeting.

1. What criteria are important when deciding which solution will work best for the community? List the criteria below.
2. Before sorting, summarize the perspective of the group you are representing and the values that are important to this constituency group. Use the results of the community needs survey to help you answer:
 - What values does your constituency group hold?
 - How will your constituency group's values affect how you will sort the solutions?
 - What is your constituency group concerned with in the community?
3. Sort the list: Team members need to agree on the position of each item in the ordered list. Rank the solutions in order of importance, according to the values of your constituency group. For example, if you are taking the perspective of the Retired group, try to think about what types of community improvements would benefit your group and why. Negotiate and discuss your preferences.
4. Use the comment boxes: Develop a justification for each item to support your ranking. Explain what your top choices are and why the other choices are not as good.
5. Compare rankings: Compare your lists to other teams' lists. Notice how different constituency groups rate the list differently. Why do you think this is? What is important to the other groups? Use this information as you prepare your presentation to defend your ranking.
6. Why have you ranked the bottom 3 and the top 3 the way you have?