

4. List the duties of the township board officers:

Supervisor:

Treasurer:

Clerk:

Trustee:

*discussion idea: do you think you'd like to be a township government official some day?
Why or why not?*

Name: _____

Handout #2: research guide Day 2: :Local Government

Directions: Find your local township website (or the township closest to where you live) by going to <http://www.infomi.com/> and clicking on "Michigan Townships."

1. Find the township website and write it below:

2. What is the name of the township?

3. What are the names of your township officials, and how could you contact them?

Supervisor:

Treasurer:

Clerk:

Trustee:

Trustee:

Trustee:

Trustee:

4. Where is the Town Hall located?

5. Find an important issue that is happening in this township and describe it below:

6. write down 2-3 things you wonder about your township or township government itself, an issue you would like to know more about, or something you would like to ask a township official about.

Handout #3: Scenario Cards: Residents of Stinky Lake

Residents for homes #1-5

You are tired of having nowhere for your poop to go. You don't really care what happens at those township board meetings, but you want a sewer in your neighborhood. You, however, do not have very much money and have not been able to work for a few months. You can't pay much money for the sewer project if it is approved, and if it is, you know it will be expensive.

Residents of homes #6-10

You are extremely interested in getting a sewer installed at Stinky Lake. You decide to organize the lake residents, together with your neighbors in homes 6-10, and get them to understand that a sewer is necessary, no matter how much it costs, and that you must demand that the township board installs a sewer.

Residents of homes #11-15

You need a place to put your poop, because it is really starting to stink. You decide to talk with your neighbors about how important a sewer system is, and that you need to get moving in the right direction. You decide to work with your other neighbors to write a petition to have the township board members hear your concerns. You must have 51% of the residents of Stinky Lake sign this petition in order for the board to hear your proposition for a sewer system, and for them to do research by experts that will determine whether or not the sewer can be installed on the lake for safety reasons.

Handout #3: Scenario Cards: Township Board

Township Supervisor:

Your job in this matter will be to manage and supervise the research for and eventually the construction of the sewer at Stinky Lake. You will have to determine which homes will be included in the sewer project and which will not. You will do this by looking at a map of Stinky Lake and deciding which homes should be part of the sewer system based on where they are located. You must attend all meetings and listen to your constituents' voices, their concerns and opinions. Your vote on whether or not to install a sewer at Stinky Lake should be based on the research provided by the company the board hires to do the research and the opinions of the public.

Township Treasurer:

Your job in this matter will be to vote on the sewer project. You must attend all meetings and listen to your constituents' voices, their concerns and opinions. Your vote on whether or not to install a sewer at Stinky Lake should be based on the research provided by the company the board hires to do the research and the opinions of the public. If the motion passes, you will need to set up a special bank account to collect money from the people included in the Stinky Lake sewer project. You will need to pay the people who perform the services involved in building the sewer with the money that you collect.

Township Clerk:

Your job in this matter will be to attend all meetings and vote on the sewer project. You will also have to post notice of all meetings (place a sign on the door that says there will be a meeting and that all of the public is invited). You will also have to take write down what happens at the meeting. If the motion for the sewer passes, you will have to send a notice to all of the people included in the sewer project telling them that the sewer project will be installed, and that they have to pay \$10,000 to the Township by a certain date. Your vote on whether or not to install a sewer at Stinky Lake should be based on the research provided by the company the board hires to do the research and the opinions of the public.

Township Trustee(s):

Your job in this matter will be to attend all meetings and vote on the sewer project. You must be sure that each of the other officials are doing their jobs. If the board assigns you another duty to carry out with regard to the sewer project, you must do so. Your primary job is to vote on whether or not to pass the sewer system. Your vote on whether or not to install a sewer at Stinky Lake should be based on the research provided by the company the board hires to do the research and the opinions of the public.

Name: _____

Handout #4: "Stinky Lake" Resident Role-Play Plan

Answer all questions based on your role-play card

1. What is your opinion about where to dispose of waste? Do you think Stinky Lake residents need a sewer system (a place to put their doo-doo)?
2. How much money do you think this should cost? Are you willing to pay a lot or a little to install a sewer and why?
3. What do your neighbors think about this project? Are they in favor of it? Why or why not?
4. How might you persuade others to agree with your opinion on the matter of installing a sewer project? Is it possible to get others to embrace your point of view? Jot down some notes regarding things you might say to others to persuade them to agree with you and support your opinion.

Name: _____

Handout #4: "Township Official" Role Play Plan

Answer these questions based on your scenario card

1. There are a group of residents of Stinky Lake who feel they need a sewer system to dispose of their waste. What do you think of this? Do you agree or disagree and why?
2. This is quite a large project so research will need to be done in order to be sure that a sewer (the place to put the doo-doo) is even a possibility. What kinds of research do you think could be done? Who might do this research?
3. How do the other board members feel about this issue?
4. After the research is done, how do you think you will vote on the project and why?
5. What job or role do you have in this issue?

Clerk's Notice to Residents of Stinky Lake

Persuant to ordinance POOP.123, all residents that live within the Stinky Lake Sewer District must pay a total of \$10,000.00 to the Township Board in order to receive services of said sewer system. This is not optional. You MUST pay this money or you will be in serious trouble. If you cannot afford to pay in one lump sum, you can set up a payment system with the township by meeting with the treasurer.

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7. The Clerk's primary job is to:
- a) keep the records for the township
 - b) manage the board
 - c) collect taxes

8. The Trustee's primary job is to:
- a) vote on issues
 - b) collect taxes
 - c) supervise meetings

9. Could you run for Township office? Why or why not?

10. If you were elected to be a township official, would this be your full-time job?

11. Write one interesting thing that you learned as a result of your research or one thing that you would like to know more about.

Name: _____
Handout #7

Writing Assessment

Analyze the positions of the township officials. In doing so ask yourself these questions:

- Did they do their jobs? Why do you think this?
- Should they have done more research to prepare themselves to vote on installing the sewer system, or did they do enough research?
- Were the residents happy with the results of the vote? Why or why not? Use examples from the activity in class and from your information to support your opinion.

Writing Checklist

Before you turn in your assignment, ask yourself the following:

- Did I discuss whether the township officials did their jobs and how their jobs impacted the process of setting up the sewer system?
- Did I explain how I thought they did enough research or did I explain how they should have done more?
- Did I think about how the decision made by the board affected the residents of Stinky Lake? Did I explain that?
- Did I use instances of what happened in our class activity to explain my ideas?