



9.6 The Affirmative Plan

This activity develops understanding of the affirmative plan. In this activity, students evaluate and criticize different policy proposals. The activity focuses on improving student understanding of the affirmative plan.

Time Allotment

20-40 minutes

Objectives

By the end of this activity, students will:

- have a better sense of what makes a strong plan.
- be able to evaluate proposals.
- develop critical thinking.

Materials and Preparation

Three sample plans, preferably plans of cases run on this year's resolution. One should be clear and well thought out, providing a powerful, specific solution to a pressing social problem. The other two should be slightly weaker, more vague, and less effective proposals.

Method

Divide the class into groups. Give each group a different plan.

Tell the entire class that one of the plans is structured well, while the other two have serious weaknesses. Ask each group to discuss and decide whether their plan is the quality plan or one of the weak plans. Ask students not to talk with students from another group until the activity this phase of the activity is over.

Ask them to present their reasons for that conclusion to the class, defending each claim that some element is a weakness or strength.

Be sure to emphasize to your students that there are no right or wrong responses and ideas. It is most important for groups to justify their claims than to have "right" claims.