



Eye spy politics

Overview This poster is a tool to help young people identify the many ways in which politics impacts on their local community

Materials

- Poster
- Post it notes
- Pens
- *Democracy Cookbook*

Instructions Either as a group or individually ask the participants to identify as many ways as possible that politics has affected the scene in the poster. Some are very obvious, others require a closer look. Use your Cookbook to get some clues.

Participants should use post it notes to mark the aspect of the poster politics affects and write on the note an explanation of how or why it is affected.

For example

- 'Politics affects the skateboard park as your local council is responsible for providing leisure services and facilities for young people'
- 'Politics affects the man smoking as UK Parliament decides what age you can be to buy cigarettes and how much tax you have to pay on them'
- 'Politics affects the smoke coming from the factory as the European Parliament sets guidelines on air quality'

Encourage participants to use the internet or other information sources to help them.

There are hundreds of different things you could identify demonstrating that politics affects nearly everything! You could offer a prize for the group that identifies the most in a set time.

Development idea one – who decides?

Challenge participants to identify who is responsible for making decisions about the issues that they have identified. Different levels of politics often impact on the same issue so there may be more than one right answer. Use the Ingredients section of the *Democracy Cookbook* to help you.

Development idea two – you're in charge

Get participants to imagine that they are politicians.

Ask them:

- what they would like to change about the scene?
- and how they would go about doing this?

Encourage participants to come up with creative solutions to the issues identified and inspire them to think about how they can make a difference in their local area.

Development idea three – get creative

Ask participants to draw an illustration or create a collage of their local community identifying how politics affects their lives. If you have a large sheet of paper this can be done in a group.

If you can, you should display participants' political posters.

Development idea four – out and about

When you are out in your local community play your own game of Eye spy politics by spotting people, places or objects that are affected by politics. Get participants to try and guess what you have chosen and why it is political. Whoever guesses correctly first takes the next turn.