

Lesson-7: Mediation Case Study

How to prepare: Provide print and/or digital editions of newspapers. Help students select a conflict based on one or more stories they read on their own or in teams or small groups or as a whole class. Review the RESOLVING CONFLICTS for use with students during this lesson.

What to do:

Based on their reading, have students work on their own or in groups to analyze the conflict, using the outline below.

What is the conflict?

1. Facts:

- a. What happened or what are the key facts that have led to the dispute?
- b. Who are the people involved? What positions do they hold?
- c. Why is the problem or conflict coming up now?

2. Issues:

- a. What issues are at the heart of the dispute?
- b. What does each side of the dispute want? How do you know?

3. Brainstorm solutions to the problem or ways to resolve the conflict.

4. Discuss the pros and cons of potential solutions or ways to resolve the conflict.

5. Merge, eliminate, and/or pare down potential solutions or ways to resolve the conflict. Determine whether each is short- and/ or long-term or if the final solution involves steps.

6. Determine the two most workable solutions or ways to resolve the conflict.

EXTRA: Have students vote by secret ballot to determine which of the workable solutions or ways of resolving the conflict received more support in their groups or in your classroom.

The outline above was adapted from "Teaching Responsibility" developed in 1997 by then NC Dept. of Public Instruction consultant, Doug Robertson.