Teacher Instructions

Facilitators: At least 1
Ideal Age Range: 8+
Length of Time: 20 min depending on engagement level

Supplies:
★ “If I Were an Urban Planner...” printed handout from YEP! Website
★ Markers

OBJECTIVE

Once students have learned what urban planning is and have studied some of the areas of civics, social studies, or geography as well as participated in the YEP! activities, they will be able to illustrate what action steps they could take to make a difference in their community.

PRELIMINARY SET-UP

Each student is given the “If I Were an Urban Planner...” handout and markers for writing.

STUDENT ACTIVITY

1. Once the youth have their handout, they can brainstorm about the ways in which they would make a difference in their community as an urban planner.
2. Then the students can fill in their responses writing a statement about what changes or improvements they decided that they would make if they had the chance.

CONCLUSION: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Ask the students to raise their hands and call on different individuals: “What did you want to change or improve about your city or community? Why?”
2. Ask the students to raise their hands and call on different individuals: “Why is it important to voice your opinion to others and community leaders?”

WHAT DO PLANNERS DO?

An urban planner is a professional who works to enhance the quality of life. A planner is a person who helps shape the design and form of a city or place, from buildings to roads, and parks and more. Planners observe and analyze the communities around them and with the help of community members, make recommendations to policy makers for improvements. There are many different types of planners who specialize in different subject areas, such as land use, housing, transportation, natural resources, economic development, urban design, parks and recreation, wastewater, zoning, and public meetings.