

Culminating Activity: Mock Board of Architectural Review Meeting

Teacher Guide

This guide is to help you lead the mock Board of Architectural Review meeting and understand what kind of responses you should be getting from your students.

The students in the Homeowner and Business Owner groups will each be presenting their proposals. The Charleston Heritage Preservation Trust group will be asked to speak after each proposal has been presented. Then, the Board of Architectural Review group will deliberate, ask questions, and make a final decision whether to approve or deny the proposals.

Prior to the meeting, become familiar with the information in each of the Culminating Activity packets.

Step 1:

After the students are situated, have the Homeowner group members stand at the front of the room facing the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) group and present their proposal.

Be sure they clearly state what is they are proposing to do to their building and why it is necessary.

Step 2:

Tell the students the floor is now open for discussion from the public.

Ask the Charleston Heritage Preservation Trust (CHPT) group to stand and voice their comments. Then ask the Interested Citizens group to stand and voice their comments.

Before the CHPT group and Interested Citizens groups step down, be sure they address each of the points specified in their group packet.

Step 3:

Tell the students the floor is now closed for public discussion.

Ask the BAR group members to make any comments or ask questions of the Homeowner group.

Give the BAR group members a few moments to make their decision. Go down the line and ask each BAR group member whether they approve or deny the proposal.

Ask them to provide a reason behind their decision.

Step 4:

Repeat steps 1 through 3 for the Business Owner group.

Step 5:

After the Business Owner proposal has been presented and voted on, tell the students they are to write an essay to explain why they voted the way they did (if they are in the BAR group) or whether they agreed with the final decision (if they are in the CHPT, Homeowner, and Business Owner groups).

Step 6:

Have the students arrange their desks in a circular fashion.

Lead the students in a discussion about the mock BAR meeting.

Possible discussion questions include, but are not limited to:

1. Did you agree with the decisions that were made today?
2. For those of you not in the BAR group, did you find it frustrating that you did not have a vote in the end?
3. For those of you in the Homeowner and Business Owner groups, how did you feel when the other two groups pointed out the preservation concerns and issues that you were unaware of when you presented?
4. Can you see how it is important for people who own historic buildings to be aware of proper preservation methods before undertaking any alterations to the building?
5. How do you think these decisions can affect Charleston's buildings in today's world?

6. Do you think it is necessary for cities to have Boards of Architectural Review? Why or why not?
7. Do you think preserving Charleston's historic properties is important? Why or why not?

In the end, it is important for the students to understand that the roles they played and the organizations they represented are real and each have a significant impact on how Charleston's buildings are preserved and utilized. Without them, Charleston would be a very different city indeed.