



LAES has developed a series of immigrant issue instructional modules entitled "Tierra de Oportunidad" for orientation to our complex society.

---

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

### **Module 15 Civic Participation Instructions:**

*This activity is in two parts. The first part asks you to work in groups to choose an interest or concern, determine what to do about it, and either write a letter stating your group's view or enact a role play demonstrating your position. The second part asks you to reflect on the work you have done with this module and tell us what you learned from it.*

#### **Part I.**

Divide into small groups. Then, please choose a common interest or concern to your group (such as neighborhood safety, local parks, schools, the need for good jobs, relations among different ethnic groups in your community, or something else). Then, please, either (a) write a letter about it to a politician or community leader, or (b) create a role play showing the group's position on the issue and how they could demonstrate their position to a community leader. Use the worksheet provided on the next page to draft your response (either the letter or the role play) and then turn it into the teacher.

**If your group chooses to write a letter.** Please draft a letter to a community leader or to a politician - local, state or federal. In order to get your point across, it is important that you clearly express your groups' position on the issue, write persuasively about it, include supporting information for your view, and that you list action or actions that the group would like the politician to take to show he or she has been responsive to your views. Use the space provided on the next page to draft your letter.

**If your group chooses to prepare a role play.** Please prepare a role play showing the group's position on the selected issue, and reflecting how the group could present this position persuasively to the community leader or politician (local, state or federal). Just like with the letter, it is important that your group clearly express your position on the issue, that you are persuasive in your presentation, that you include supporting information for your position, and that you recommend steps to be taken to show responsiveness to your views. It also is important that you represent the likely response to your group's views, and include in your role play a strategy for either overcoming (if you think the response will be negative) or building on that response (if you think the response may be positive or weakly positive). Use the space provided on the next page to script your role play.

**Civic Participation Worksheet for Part I.-Please Turn This in to your Teacher**

- We are drafting a \_\_\_\_\_ Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Role Play
- This is our issue:
- Our group's position on it is:
- We would like the politician or community leader to do:

***Draft of Letter or Role Play-Use the back of the page, I you need more space:***

**Part II.**

**Please tell us what you learned from your work with this module**

**Did you benefit from your work on this module regarding any of the following?**

<b><i>Understanding better</i></b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Please comment on either: &lt; How you benefited; or &lt; Why you feel this module was not useful for you in this area</b>
a. How people can work together to make changes in schools, at work or in the community?		
b. How to let other people in the community know how you feel about an issue; and how to get your ideas heard?		
c. The different ways an individual can get other people interested in an issue or in changing laws or practices?		
d. If it is worth it or not to tell politicians, or local community government representatives your view or write letters to the newspaper		

editor?		
e. If there are local groups working on issues you care about?		

**1. Did your work in this module help you in any of the following areas?**

<b><i>Understanding how to or how to better:</i></b>	<b>Yes/No</b>	<b>Please comment on either: &lt; How you benefited; or &lt; Why you feel this module was not useful for you in this area</b>
a. Analyze the issues that are reported on in the newspapers or other media?		
b. Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper expressing your views in a way others with different views would understand?		
c. Listen to and communicate with public officials and their staff in a way which helps them understand your perspective and why it's different from theirs?		
d. Get access to a variety of information (or information from different sources) on community activities or government affairs, so you could really know what's going on?		
e. Persuade others to your viewpoint, when you think it's important?		
f. Negotiate with others to solve problems or reach decisions, even when they are from various backgrounds and have differing perspectives from yours?		
g. Anything else? Please tell us in the space below:		

*Authors: Ed Kissam and Holda Dorsey*

*A project of the California Department of Education, Youth, Adult and Alternative Educational Services Division, funded by contract #4213 of the Federal P.L. 100-297, Section 353 with California State University Institute and Hacienda LaPuente USD. However, the content does not necessarily reflect the position of that unit or of the U.S. Office of Education. 1997*