

Teacher-to-Teacher

Democratic deliberation is a focus in the civic education program. To better develop skills in this area, Lesson Five provides opportunities for students to examine issues from different points of views. The introductory read aloud, *Hey Little Ant*, offers a humorous glimpse into a totally different perspective and is a wonderful means to begin examining other ways of looking at a situation. Classroom literature presents many opportunities to develop this skill. Issues presented in other subject areas such as science and social studies also lend themselves to students' consideration of other opinions and ideas in their decision making.

The activities listed below are designed to give students opportunities to practice decision making and deliberation. In each they ask the students to voice their ideas but consider other ideas or perspectives before drawing a conclusion.

- The *Sticky Situation* and *Student Voice Bulletin Board* give students opportunity to strengthen problem solving skills and build student voice with discussion and deliberation.
- *Should We Have Pets?* graphic organizer asks the students to consider the pros and cons of pet ownership. The ideas presented by the class are compared to those in the book *Should We Have Pets?* by Sylvia Lollis.
- The activity, *Examining Points of View*, allows students to select an issue and write the pros and cons of the issue in a 2-tab book.
- The *Literacy Link* bookmark provides activities and discussion questions that extend the lesson.