

TOPIC: How Can I Improve New Rochelle!

OBJECTIVE: to help the students realize that they *are* the community..

MATERIALS: Current copies of the *STANDARD STAR*, paper and pencils.

ACTIVITY: Distribute paper and pencils to the students and have them write down what they perceive to be the 10 most pressing problems of the City of New Rochelle. Allow about 5-10 minutes for this activity, using copies of the *STANDARD STAR* to help identify problems. Ask for volunteers to read their papers. Have the students pick 5 of those read and write them on the board. Have the students brainstorm some creative, dynamic solutions to these problems.

SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How difficult is it to pick out the problems in New Rochelle? Why? Why not?
2. How difficult is it to think of solutions ? Why? Why not?
3. Can all problems be solved? Why? Why not?
4. Do you believe you are part of the problem? Why? Why not?
5. Do you believe you are part of the solution? Why? Why not?
6. Have you ever been to a City Council meeting? Why? Why not?
7. You are (or will soon be) 18, have you or will you register to vote? Why? Why not?
8. Do you believe that you can make a difference in the New Rochelle Community?
How?

SUGGESTED READING: Genesis 11: 1-9

The Tower of Babel

The whole world spoke the same language, with the same vocabulary. Now, as people moved eastwards they found a valley in the land of Shinar where they settled. They said to one another, "Come let us make bricks and bake them in the fire." For stone they used bricks, and for mortar they used bitumen. "Come," they said, "let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top reaching heaven. Let us make a name for ourselves, so that we do not get scattered all over the world."

Now Yahweh came down to see the city and the tower that the people had built. "So they are all a single people with a single language!" said Yahweh. "This is only the start of their undertakings! Now nothing they plan to do will be beyond them. Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they cannot understand one another." Yahweh scattered them thence all over the world, and they stopped building the city. That is why it was called Babel, since there Yahweh confused the language of the whole world, and from there Yahweh scattered them all over the world.

TEACHER OPTION: If the students have come up with good ideas, have them write the ideas up as a Letter to the Editor of the *STANDARD STAR* and have it printed.