



Name: _____ Date: _____

Community Growth

Directions: Working in a small group, investigate a city/state that has experienced significant, rapid growth in the past five years. Using Internet and library resources along with first-hand interviews and correspondence, answer the questions below and present your findings to classmates by creating a project that illustrates your findings.

Research Questions: (Note your answers on a separate sheet of paper or the back of this page. Be sure to indicate the resource you used to answer each question)

- Which city/state is the focus of your research?
- How much growth has this city/state experienced in the past five years?
- What brought most of the new residents to this city/state?
- What have been the positive and negative economic effects of population growth?
- What have been the positive and negative effects of population growth on community resources?
- What positive and negative impacts has population growth caused for the social services in this city/state?
- What positive and negative effects has population growth had on the quality of life/lifestyle in this city/state?
- What concerns do people living in this city/state have about future population growth?
- How do people who have lived in this city/state feel about what the population growth has done for the area?
- Do people who moved to the city/state within the past five years have positive or negative feeling about making the move? (i.e. Has living in this area been everything they thought it would be? Why?)
- Other: (write your own questions/answers)

Research Modes: Utilize Internet and traditional library resources to access reputable sources that can help you answer each question. In addition, utilize online contact information to contact city/state officials who can provide specific information about specific areas. Some to consider might be:

- City Planners/Urban Development Specialists
- Dept. of Education/School District Representatives
- Dept. of Social Services
- Dept. of Natural Resources
- Economic Planning Commission
- Lawmakers
- Police Dept./Emergency Services
- Dept. of Health and Human Services

Interviews: If possible, work with your teacher to connect with students from a school within the city/state you are researching and ask them to respond to interview questions about the topics above. Get varying points of view by interviewing students who have lived in the area their whole lives vs. those who have moved there recently.

Presentation: Arrange your findings in a way that will be interesting for other viewers. You could utilize the ideas presented below or one of your own with teacher approval.

- Create a series of blogs or diary entries for fictional residents of various ages who have lived in the area for varying amounts of time. Have each talk about the changes, positive and negative, that growth has brought to their community. (HINT: Each group member could play the role of a particular resident when creating this project)
- Create a set of collages that show the positive and negative effects the city/state has experienced because of community growth.
- Create a multi-media presentation that shows the positive and negative effects of community growth on the city/state. Each slide should include a picture, graph, chart, and some text explaining what you are illustrating. Be sure to include multiple points of view (i.e. long-time residents vs. new residents or those just moving to the area)
- Other: (describe your project idea and get teacher approval below)