

Student Handout: Developing Political Brochures

Steps:

1. Work in small groups and review the following documents:
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<http://www.un.org/Overview/rights.html>
 - Fundamental Principles of Olympism
(from the International Olympic Committee's Charter)
 - China's Human Rights Record from U.S. State Department-
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2007/100518.htm>
(read the introduction)
 - NewsHour debate on whether China should host the 2008 Olympics
http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/sports/july-dec01/olympics_7-10.html#
2. After reading the materials, in your group brainstorm four different lists of the 1) strengths and 2) weaknesses of Beijing hosting the Olympics and what 3) opportunities and 4) threats might result from Beijing hosting the Olympics. Be sure to look at all aspects of these topics – the future of the Olympic Games, economic, diplomatic, and human rights issues.
3. In your small groups, discuss following questions.
 - a. What is to be gained and lost by having a country with the human rights record of China host the Olympics?
 - b. What are the potential costs and benefits of having China host the Olympics?
 - c. Discuss whether China's human rights record should be an issue during the 2008 Beijing Olympics or should all politics be kept out of the Olympics and Chinese human rights violations should be addressed at a different time?
 - d. If China's human rights record is to be an issue during the Olympics, what some ways to go about doing this? What actions can be taken to get China to improve its human rights record?
4. Next develop a political brochure that reflects one of the possible actions listed below to address China's human rights record. Your teacher may assign you one of the actions or you may choose them

yourselves. Be creative in the layout of the brochures and incorporate solid evidence and examples in support of your ideas. Each brochure should address the following points:

- a. Identify your audience. For whom is the brochure intended?
- b. List the major points that support your position
- c. List the major concerns you have about alternative courses of action
- d. Describe the call to action you want your audience to take
- e. List the benefits you expect will result from the actions you advocate.

Options:

- Keep politics out of the Olympics. Watch the Games on television, patronize sponsors, and make contributions supporting the event. Address China's human rights violations through different avenues other than the Olympics.
- Support Beijing Olympics and encourage all countries to participate in hopes the exposure to alternative ideas will improve China's human rights record. Explain how this event provides a unique opportunity to encourage positive change in China.
- Support the Beijing Olympics but continue to express concerns about China's human rights policies through letters to leading heads of state encouraging them to take this opportunity to put pressure on the Chinese government to improve their human rights record.
- Boycott the Beijing Olympics. Don't attend, encourage your friends not to attend, sponsor, or watch the Beijing Olympics on television. Write letters to existing and potential sponsors and your local newspaper discouraging people from supporting the Beijing Olympics.
- Openly protest in your home country against people attending or watching the Beijing Olympics. Promote rallies and demonstrations at key times (during major Olympic events) and key places (major sponsors' headquarters, Olympic committee offices, and international governmental organizations). Make sure they understand your issues of concern.
- Go to China and participate in public protests against the Chinese government's human rights policies in front of the international media at Olympic venues.