

FINAL TASK (oral interaction)

community action to help young Spokane Indians succeed in Wellpinit

WELLPINIT DISCUSSION GROUP on 'How to make our reservation a better place to grow up in'.

A diverse group of community members (adults and youths) is gathered with locally trained facilitators to proceed through the discussion guide. Through lively and meaningful discussions community members are to make decisions about how they would address low achievements and poor self-esteem among youngsters in their community.

1 - Your discussion group is composed of 8 people. Make sure there are 2 representatives of the 4 categories that appear in the grid below (group work).

Students – parents – teachers – basketball coach and players – members of the tribal council – representatives of WSU (Washington State University)

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Tribal council representatives			
Parents			
Basketball coach and player/student			
School authorities and faculty (=teachers/professors)			

2 - Brainstorming : collect all the information that you have on the issues the Spokane tribe is faced with and exchange with your partners on the solutions you might suggest (group work).

Main issues

- ❖ alcoholism – tobacco – drug abuse
- ❖ low self-esteem
- ❖ aggressive / violent behavior
- ❖ poor schooling
- ❖ high dropout rates

Possible solutions

- Put more emphasis on academic achievements – greater involvement of the tribal council – awards to the best achievers, improve school facilities, give the kids greater access to modern technologies, attract and hire better qualified teachers...
- Promote basketball and give more financial support to the team – promote other sports – use sport events to pull the community together – Film the varsity team throughout the season...
- Help make sure all the sport events are alcohol / tobacco / drug free. Make the Spokane Tribal Fair and Powwow an alcohol-free event as well.
- Discuss the building of an extension to the gymnasium.
- ...

DON'T FORGET TO ILLUSTRATE WHATEVER YOU SAY WITH CONCRETE EXAMPLES AND NAMES.

3 - Get ready to play your part in the discussion (individual work).

Here are a few tips to help you play your role in the discussion:

Tribal council members (and discussion leaders)

Keep in mind that you have to:

- open the discussion
*Thank you all for being part of our discussion group today. We really appreciate your joining in.
As you all know, we are here to address together crucial issues regarding our youths. Our goal today is to come up with possible measures in order to make our reservation a better place to grow up in.*
- make sure everybody express their points of view.
*Maybe we could first hear what some of you have to say as parents or teenagers.
What about you (name your interlocutor)? How do you assess the situation and what do you think can be done?*
- agree with what is being said, approve of some the suggestions or object to others on behalf of the whole tribal council.
Don't forget that:
 - You are in favor of whatever may strengthen the ties among the members of the tribe / help youngsters discover their heritage, learn about their culture, be proud of who they are, feel that they have a special bond with other Native American tribes,...
 - You cannot afford to make too many promises financially speaking
- conclude the discussion
*Well, it is time for us to conclude this first session. It's been intense and lots of ideas have been thrown in today. Thank you all for your most interesting contributions.
So to sum up what has been exposed and suggested, it seems that our main issues are
According to what you said we should...../ it is necessary to/ it is most vital to...*

The parents

Express your concern and exasperation regarding the issues your children are faced with: different types of addiction / low academic achievements / high dropout rate / little incentive to get a higher education / few prospects and job opportunities. Don't forget to refer to stories and incidents that involve specific kids.

*We are worried by the alarming number of...
We are quite concerned to hear that...*

*How come our schools fail to provide our kids with...?
We have to try harder to prevent our kids from + VING
We just can't let them + BV
Too many of them...
Too few of them...*

*We are tired of + Ving...
We have had enough of + Ving...
We can't put up with that situation anymore.*

*It is time for all of us to...
It is vital/ essential / indispensable / necessary that we should + BV*

Basketball player(s) and coach(es)

Emphasize the positive role Basketball (and other sports) has been playing and suggest improvements to make that role even more effective. (Give lots of concrete examples).

*Thanks to basketball our youths can... / have been able to... /
Basketball and other sports are great means to...
You all know how important it is to... / for us to...
Basketball can play a key role insofar as (dans la mesure où)...
Kids learn how to..., they build... and manage to...
Therefore we have to promote...
We should encourage / incite kids / parents / our community to...
Our team needs your help and support to ...*

School representatives (teacher(s), head(s) of elementary schools, principal(s), supervisor of the tribal college)

Show you realize how vital education is and are aware of the stakes / what is at stake. Insist on the measures that have been taken already and on what is being done. Admit that a lot remains to be done. Make suggestions and ask the whole community and other partners to contribute.

*We are quite aware that ...
We believe thatis essential.
We have decided to...
We are determined to.....
We are eager to.....
I am convinced thatand we all devote a lot of time to.....
We have already managed to ...
.....has been a success
Our students start benefitting from...
We have noticed that...they ... / more and more / less and less
But it is true that / I must admit that / I'll grant you that..... / there is no denying that....
Our number one priorities today are to... (develop / improve / increase / renovate / boost / attract / ...)
We still lack...
We need...
Too many of our students still fail to.....so we must*

4- It's now time to rehearse your discussion. The tribal council members are to act as debate moderators (group work).