

Lesson Plan 2: The Perfect Chocolate Chip Cookie*

(can be adapted to all age levels)

Summary: Member comes to the classroom for a 50-55 minute class and engages students in a discussion of decision-making.

Teacher Preparation: Students look at the Legislative website to view the biography of the member and a map with the state legislative districts. Other materials are also available: www.leg.wa.gov/legislature

Agenda for class period:

2 minutes Transition students.

5 minutes Member introduces him/herself and explains (important to keep this brief to keep students' attention):

- Name and title (may need to explain in more detail to younger children)
- Some personal background - school attended, favorite subjects, current non-legislative employment, etc.
- History including how and why he/she was drawn to public service and the Legislature.

20 minutes Member explains that the students' job is to decide, **as a class**, on the perfect chocolate chip cookie.

- Begin by asking what makes a perfect cookie.
- When they are unable to agree, lead them through a process of deciding on nuts or no nuts, many or few chips, soft or chewy, thick or thin, etc.

10 minutes Discuss how the exercise relates to the process of dealing with competing interests, negotiating, compromising and decision-making that you experience as a legislator. Give some examples - e.g., WASL testing, length of school year, seat belts on school busses, etc.

15 minutes Member invites students to ask general questions or to make comments.

Back to School Program Goals:

- Teach students about what it's like to be a state legislator: the debate, negotiation, and compromise that are necessary in developing public policy.
- Let students know that their ideas count.

Tips for Talking with Students:

- Try to let as many of the students talk as possible.
- Use personal stories to engage the students.
- Let the students know how to contact you.

Assessment:

Ask students to write down two things they learned from the visit that they did not know before.

***Can also do perfect pizza, school lunch, etc.**