

## Lesson Six: Take a Stand

### Overview:

This lesson emphasizes the importance of participation in the process of government. The committees choose one family to receive the goat based on the application letters and the family data sheets. Then the class as a whole plays *Take a Stand*, in which the students try to persuade each other to vote for the family they have chosen. As a wrap-up, the students can evaluate the decision-making process and identify what worked and what did not, and why.

### National Standards Addressed:

- What is government?
- What are some of the most important things governments do?
- How do you evaluate rules and laws? Draft a school rule that meets the criteria.
- What are major responsibilities of local governments?
- What are the roles of the citizen in American Democracy (participation)?

### Materials:

- Application Letters from Families
- Family Data Sheets (see Lesson Three)
- *Was the Decision-Making Process Fair?*

### Lesson Procedure:

1. Introduce the concept of **participation**. Explain to the class that the most important role of a citizen is to be involved in the community. Communities in democratic societies rely on citizens to help make their community a better place.
2. Tell the students that by choosing and evaluating rules, they have been participating in the government of the Dairy Goat Project. They will now continue their participation in government by applying those rules and choosing a family to receive the next goat.
3. Write the four rules that the class selected to apply for everyone to see.
4. Divide the class into committees (you may use the same groupings as in previous lessons or change them). Choose the roles of committee members. Discuss the following possible roles and change them to make them better, or add others that you feel are important. The teacher may wish to assign the roles.
  - Discussion leader: To see to it that the process is orderly, people take turns, listen attentively, and respect each others' opinions, everyone should participate in order to be an active citizen.
  - Recorder: Takes notes and records votes for each letter
  - Reader: Reads the letters to the committee.
  - Vote Counter: Polls the committee and records votes for each letter.
  - Reporter: Reads the final results and reasons for selection to the class
  - If there are additional students, they could be given the responsibility of calling the group to order, or helping the with the letters.

5. Each committee should have the following papers:
  - The application letters from families in Kisinga
  - The family data sheets (they need data sheets for all the families)
6. The committees should now apply the rules to each application letter and decide which family should receive Mulindwa the goat. Groups or individuals may disagree as to which family best meets the criteria. This should be used as an opportunity for others to listen to alternative points of view before selecting their final choices.
7. Each committee should tell the class which family they selected and why they found this letter more persuasive, or how it met the rules better than the others.
8. You may choose to end the lesson here, or continue and select one family as a whole class by playing the game, **Take a Stand:**

Write the name of each family and place the names in different locations of the classroom. Students should stand under the family name that they think should receive the goat. Take turns going to each group/family. One person in that group should give a reason why they think that family should get the goat. Continue going around the family groups until everyone has given a reason for their choice.

Tell students that they can move up to two times to choose a different family if someone has said something that persuades them to change their mind. (Remind the students that this is not a game of walking back and forth! If they move to choose a different family, they will be responsible for explaining what made them change their mind.)

9. When everyone in the class has given a reason for selecting a particular family, count how many people are standing in each family's area. The family that has the most people standing in its area is the family that will receive the goat.

**Extension Activity:**

1. Explain to the class that it is important to see how the decision-making process worked in their groups. That way, if something did not work well, it can be changed next time a similar decision has to be made.
2. Either distribute *Was the Decision-Making Process Fair?* for the students to complete, or discuss the questions orally as a whole class.

HANDOUT: Was the Decision-Making Process Fair?

1. Did you think the selection process fair?

What made it fair or unfair?

If you could change the process, what would you do differently?

2. What made the rules you chose (to select the family) good rules?

3. In a democracy it is important for everyone to be involved in community activities. How did you participate in selecting the family?

## APPLICATION 1:

To The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

My name is Jane Baluku and I am 21 years old. I am a widow with 3 orphans aged 6, 5, and 3 years old and stay with my old mother and three young brothers aged 13, 11, and 9 years old. I have no source of income to look after these children and my aged mother, apart from the sale of cassava flour from which I only get money for salt and soap. The last child Rose is not well. She is always sick. The nurse at the clinic told me to feed her well. Esther told me that the best medicine is goat's milk. She says Rose lacks protein. Madam, as you know I have no goat and no money to buy milk.

If my application is successful I am able to plant the fodder in my small plot and fodder trees in my banana plantation. I am also going to put up the goat shed. The other members of the project have promised to give me the poles for the goat house. I will attend the training with my young brothers who will help me to prepare for the goat after the training.

Please assist us to bring hope in our lives. Waiting for your motherly care, I remain yours.

Mrs. Jane Baluku

## APPLICATION 2:

The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

I am Justine Kule, a member of the Kisinga Women's Dairy Group and 27 years old. I have very many problems, which a goat can help me to solve. These are the problems.

1. I cannot afford to send my girls, aged 9 and 7 years, to school due to lack of money to buy school uniforms and other school requirements like books and pencils.
2. My small two roomed old grass thatched house is about to collapse on us. It is also leaking. I have not been able to cut grass this season, as I was sick with malaria.
3. My husband who went to look for a job in Kasese town has not been home for two years.
4. I can hardly afford any basic requirements like paraffin for my tin candle, salt, and soap. This season I got a poor harvest of beans so I have little for next planting season. We have eight people in our household — myself, my old mother-in-law, a sister aged 17 years with her 6 month old daughter, and my 4 children. Only my two sons are going to school. My brother-in-law provides their school requirements.
5. My sister is sick with AIDS and her child is only 6 months old. My sister's child needs milk.

I wish to get a goat in order to meet these basic requirements. I will be able to attend training, plant fodder and put up a shed with the help of my two sons aged 12 and 10 years old. The girls will be helping to feed the goats and clean the shed.

I will abide by all the rules of the project and contribute towards its sustainability once I have income from the goat.

Waiting for your reply, I remain yours

Mrs. Justine Kule

APPLICATION 3:

The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

I am Mrs. Eva Tembo. I am a primary teacher at St. Clair Primary School. I have six children, two boys and four girls aged 14, 13, 11, 9, 7 and 6 years. The children are in school.

I request a goat in order to be able to send the oldest boy to high school. My salary is not enough to support all the children. I also wish to buy cement for my iron roofed house in order to plaster the wall and floor.

I will be able to send my sister for training and will plant fodder and put up a shed on weekends. The children will help on the farm once they come home from school and on weekends. My husband who is a clerk at the local council office will buy the building materials for the shed.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Eva Tembo

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APPLICATION 4:

The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women's Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

I humbly apply for a female dairy goat. I have ten acres of land. Four are occupied with coffee, two with bananas, and four are vacant, so it is where I will plant the grass for goats.

My husband left three years ago as a soldier and has not been back. I do not know whether he is still alive or not. I am responsible for the entire family. I have five children. Two are boys in primary and three are girls in high school.

I hope you can help me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Kanna Jostine

APPLICATION 5:

The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women's Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

I hereby apply for a dairy goat from the club.

I am an old member of the club and I have never been given any goat since the supply started. I do not have much land to grow fodder for the goat to eat, but maybe I can find something to feed it.

Madam, I beg you kindly to be considered. My six children are very sick and I cannot buy medicine for them. I do not have much food to feed them.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Stella Kanundula

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APPLICATION 6:

The Chairperson  
Kisinga Women's Dairy Goat Project

Dear Madam,

I am a widow caring for eight orphans and it has not been easy for me to carry out my tasks. The children often go hungry and I would like to give them better nutrition so they can be healthy.

I am a member of the Dairy Goat Project who joined seven years ago. After undergoing some training, I was given a goat that I named Jacklyne. I have half an acre that I used to plant goat feed.

After the goat had its first baby, the baby goat died after three days. I kept caring for my goat but it was no longer healthy. After a few months the goat died. Later I found out that it had eaten some plastic, which was what made it die.

I benefited a lot from that goat despite the problems. The milk improved the orphans' health greatly. My hopes depend a lot on getting a goat.

I hope you will consider my application. I remain yours faithfully,

Mrs. Leone Ingura