

# **Sustainable Community Lesson Plan**

Created by the BCTF Committee for Action on Social Justice  
Antipoverty Action Group

## **Compare/Contrast Big vs. Small Business**

Includes optional handouts (Notes sheet & Comparison chart)  
Recommended for Grade 9 and up

### **Objectives**

- students will develop a sense of how business works, how business contributes to community, and the differences between small and big businesses
- students develop analysis skills through comparing and contrasting different classes of businesses (i.e., size)

### **Curriculum connections**

- Communication
  - connect and engage with others
  - acquire, interpret and present information
  - collaborate to plan, carry out, and review constructions and activities
- Critical Thinking
  - analyze and critique
  - question and investigate
  - develop and design
- Positive Personal and Cultural Identity
  - personal values and choices
- Social Responsibility
  - contributing to community
  - valuing diversity
  - building relationships
- ADST 9
  - flow of goods and services from producers to consumers
  - measurement of financial success and failure

### **Lesson Plan (80 min.)**

#### **Introduction (5 min.)**

- As a class, briefly compare and contrast two *similar* objects (two pieces of sports equipment, two books, two people, etc.)
- create a compare/contrast chart on the board (or on chart paper)

**Discussion** (20 min.)

- Discuss comparing and contrasting as a skill for analysis and evaluation
  - discuss strategy for compare/contrast
    - choose a point and apply it to each model: is it the same or different?
  - discuss different forms of graphic organizers for compare/contrast
    - comparison chart (T chart)
    - Venn diagram (interactive Venn diagram can be made with hula hoops and strips of paper)
  - brainstorm comparison terms (write on board)
    - alike, also, as well as, both, like, likewise, same, similar, similarly, the same as, too
  - brainstorm contrast terms (write on board)
    - although, but, difference, different, differently, even though, however, in contrast, instead, not alike, on the other hand, though, unlike, whereas, while, yet.

**Activity** (20 min.)

- define small and big business (local vs. multinational, size threshold, etc.)
- tell students that they will work in pairs to compare/contrast small and big business (not specific businesses but the concepts of small and big business)
  - assign students in pairs or let them choose their own partners
    - one method of assigning partners is to write numbers on slips of 2 different colours of paper. Students pair up according to matching numbers and one colour is assigned to research small business while the other colour researches big business
- generate points to consider: (or use attached handout)
  - structure/organization (hierarchy, bureaucracy), finances (revenue, expenses, profit), work force, marketing, mission, impact (on society, economy, environment)
- generate points of view:
  - employer (product/service, profit, management), investor (return on investment), employee (job stability, job mobility, compensation, benefits, satisfaction), customer (choice, cost, quality, service).

**Assignment** (30 min.)

- students research above points individually and then work in partners to compare/contrast their findings considering the points of view that were generated above (can use T-chart attached or create their own Venn diagram, etc.).

**Debrief** (5 min.)

- ask students to share some of their findings with the class

- create a list of the top 3 similarities and differences between small and big business (based on points that were most common in all the pairs' findings)

**Attachments**

- notes for research on small or big business
- comparison chart (small vs. big business)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Notes on \_\_\_\_\_ Business

### Structure/organization/work Force

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Finances

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Marketing

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Mission

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Impact

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Comparison Chart

	Small Business	Big Business
<b>Structure Organization Work Force</b>		
<b>Finances</b>		
<b>Marketing</b>		
<b>Mission</b>		
<b>Impact</b>		

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