

Lesson Plan: Illegal Coastal Commission nominations shows decades of state law violations by SC County



Reading comprehension

Grade Level: 9-12

Lesson time: 30 minutes

Overview

Lookout's News Quizzes are a great way to get students interested in local news in an easy and quick way. These quizzes test reading comprehension while getting students more informed on issues and happenings in the community.

How best to use this in your classroom

Quizzes are sorted by date and headline and updated frequently. Choose an article related to one of your current teachings. Have students read the article, answer the 10 questions and then share any observations. This is a great reading comprehension and media literacy activity. It could also be a great way to give students extra credit opportunities in your class, a lesson to share when you have a substitute teacher and/or a great icebreaker to connect students with local issues.

LESSON PLAN

- Share this article with your students and have them read it. This can be assigned as homework or done in class (10 min)
'It's a mess': Attempt at illegal Coastal Commission nominations shows decades of state law violations by Santa Cruz County
- Share the questions with your class and have them answer the questions, either individually or in small groups. Find our Questions doc for a printable or shareable document (10 min)
- Using the answer key, you can either grade this quiz or have a class discussion around it (10 min)

News Quiz Questions & Answer Key



1. How long have Santa Cruz County executives been breaking state law by privately convening to vote on board appointments & nominations?

A: More than two years.

2. What is the significance of the California Coastal Commission?

A: They are a state agency that wields vast authority over planning and land use across California's coastal zone.

3. Why is the City Selection Committee required to conduct its business in public?

A: They are an arm of local government mandated by state law in counties with two or more incorporated cities.

4. At the private meeting held on January 27, who did the committee of mayors vote to nominate for the Coastal Commission?

A: Santa Cruz Mayor Fred Keeley, Capitola City Councilmember Yvette Brooks and board of supervisors chair Zach Friend.

5. According to county spokesperson Jason Hoppin, what were the circumstances of the illegal private meetings between county officials?

A: Hoppin claimed that the committee had been "informally meeting, often over lunch" for 30 years, and only decided to officially notice the meetings after an inquiry from a community member.

6: The committee in charge of nominations is limited to include which county officials?

A: City council members and county supervisors.

7. A city selection committee is tasked with appointing representatives to which agencies?

A: In Santa Cruz County, the committee appoints representatives to agencies such as the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, the Local Agency Formation Commission and Central Coast Community Energy's policy and operations boards.

8. Why has the Coastal Commission been referred to as "the single most powerful land-use authority in the United States"?

A: The high value of the land and the environmental assets in the coastal zone.

News Quiz Questions & Answer Key



9. City Selection Committee meetings are made up of which county officials?

A: The meetings are convened by the county administrator's office and invariably attended by the chair of the five-member board of supervisors, the county administrative officer and the four cities' city managers.

10. BONUS (Personal Opinion): Do you think city, county, and state officials should be more transparent about their electoral/appointment processes? Why or why not?

A: Personal Opinion