

Exercise on democracy, free elections and participation & writing a formal letter

Aim	To learn about democracy, free elections and how everyone has the right to participate in democratic processes. Furthermore, students will learn how to write a formal letter (to a politician).
Level	A2 - C
Language use	Speaking, reading, listening, writing
Language skill	Vocabulary for discussing social issues
Materials required	1. The book "Fakta om svensk politik" ("Facts about Swedish Politics") by Annelie Drewsen & Lina Pilo, or any other similar book 2. Youtube videos or other teaching material on how to write a formal letter

1. With the students I have read and worked on a book in easy Swedish "**Fakta om svensk politik**" ("Facts about Swedish Politics") by Annelie Drewsen & Lina Pilo, which contains the following themes: - What is politics? - The right to vote - Political parties in Sweden - What does a politician do? - Freedom of speech and free press - The election campaign, etc.

We have read the texts, answered various questions about the texts that I have composed and gone through a list of the most important words and concepts related to the topic.

2. Discussion No. 1.

What works well for me and my family here in Kramfors and in Sweden in general?

Students' answers:

- I have a rental flat and the rent is low.
- My children go to school and school is free.
- I can study Swedish at SFI (Swedish for immigrants) for free.
- There is a health centre in Kramfors.
- There is a library in Kramfors.
- There is freedom in Sweden, all people can say what they think.
- My children go to preschool and there are staff there to take care of them. There is free food in the preschool. Preschool is free if you don't have a job.

- There is universal suffrage in Sweden. I can vote in general elections every four years. If you are not a Swedish citizen, you can vote in the municipal and county council elections. If you are a Swedish citizen, you can also vote in the parliamentary elections.
- There is a train station in Kramfors. This means that you can take the train to different places.
- There are various authorities in Kramfors: the Employment Service, the Social Insurance Agency, the Police.
- There is a sports field, a swimming pool and a tennis hall in Kramfors.
- There are a number of shops, pharmacies, restaurants, cafés and a community centre (Folkets Hus) in Kramfors.
- There is an Eritrean church and a mosque in Kramfors.
- The municipality pays subsistence allowance to those who are not working.
- There are several homes for the elderly in Kramfors.
- Free health care.
- Free dental care for children up to the age of 23.
- Free medicines for children.

3. Discussion No. 2

What is not working well for me and my family here in Kramfors and in Sweden in general?

Students' answers:

- The Migration Agency has moved from Kramfors. The nearest Migration Agency now is in Sundsvall. It is far away.
- Swedbank no longer has an office in Kramfors.
- There is no hospital in Kramfors and no maternity ward.
- There is no home delivery for groceries in supermarkets in Kramfors.
- There are not many clothes shops in Kramfors.
- Problems with Krambo. They have long waiting times. (Krambo is the municipality's real estate company.)
- Lack of simple jobs in Kramfors. People would like to find jobs, but there are no jobs in Kramfors where you can work without education or not knowing good Swedish.
- It is difficult to get a doctor's appointment at the health centre.
- It is difficult to get dentist appointments in Kramfors.
- There are no playgrounds for children in Kramfors.

- There are not so many local bus runs in Kramfors municipality and this is a problem for many people who live outside Kramfors town.

4. Students will then choose one or two issues that they think are important to them personally. Then they write a formal letter to a politician in their municipality with a proposal to address the problem.

5. Students watch a Youtube video on how to write a formal letter. There are several such videos on Youtube. Then, they have to write a formal letter of their own.

This exercise is about learning how to write a formal letter, which is different from an informal letter.

We discuss the students' letters in class and refine them together.

An example of a letter written by a student to the politicians in Kramfors council:

Hej! Kramfors 2022-03-23

Jag heter Mervat Alibrahim och bor på Hällgumsgatan i Kramfors.
Jag kom till Sverige för fyra år sedan.

Jag tycker att tandläkare i Kramfors är duktiga. Men det är svårt att få tid. En gång hade jag ont i tanden och jag behövde gå till tandläkaren för att laga min tand.

Men när jag ringde till dem fick jag ingen tid, det var fullt. Då fick jag åka till Sollefteå.

Jag anser att det borde finnas fler tandläkare i Kramfors.

Tack på förhand.

Hälsningar

Mervat Alibrahim