

Analyzing the Premiership of Dan Andrews: Leadership, Policy, and Citizenship

Grade Level: 12

Subject: Social Studies: Government/Citizenship

Focus: Understanding state-level leadership, policy-making, and its connection to citizenship through the lens of a prominent recent figure.

Introduction (15 mins)

Begin with a discussion: Why study the career of a specific politician like Dan Andrews? How can focusing on one leader help us understand broader concepts like government, power, policy, and citizenship? Briefly introduce Dan Andrews, his party affiliation (Australian Labor Party), and his tenure as Premier of Victoria (December 2014 - September 2023). Discuss the role of a Premier: What does a state leader *do*? What are their main responsibilities within the Australian federal system (head of state government, selects cabinet, drives policy agenda, represents the state)?

Activity 1: Context and Career Timeline (30 mins + Research Time)

Task: Research and construct a brief timeline of Dan Andrews' political career. Include key dates like entering parliament, ministerial roles held before becoming Premier, election victories as leader, and significant milestones or events during his premiership.

Resources: Utilize online news archives, the Victorian Parliament website, and potentially biographical sources.

Discussion Prompt: What formative experiences or roles might have shaped his approach to leadership before becoming Premier?

Activity 2: Policy Deep Dive (45 mins + Research Time)

Task: Choose 2-3 significant policy areas or major projects strongly associated with the Andrews government. Examples could include:

- Infrastructure (e.g., Level Crossing Removal Project, Metro Tunnel)
- Social Policy (e.g., Voluntary Assisted Dying laws, Royal Commission into Family Violence response, Free TAFE)
- Economic Management
- COVID-19 Pandemic Response

For each chosen area, research:

1. What was the stated goal of the policy/project?
2. What actions were taken by the government?
3. What were the main arguments *for* this policy/action?
4. What were the main criticisms or controversies surrounding it?

5. What level(s) of government were primarily responsible (State, Federal, Local)?

Resources: News articles (look for analysis pieces), government press releases (often found on archived premier/department websites), Hansard for debates, reports from think tanks or relevant organizations.

Discussion Prompt: How did these policies reflect the government's priorities? How did they impact different groups within Victoria? Were they successful in achieving their stated goals?

Activity 3: Leadership and Communication Style (30 mins)

Task: Analyze Dan Andrews' leadership and communication style. Consider:

- How did he typically communicate with the public (e.g., daily press conferences during COVID, use of social media)?
- What tone did he often adopt (e.g., authoritative, empathetic, combative)?
- How was he perceived by supporters? By opponents? By the media? (Look for opinion pieces and analysis).
- What were considered his strengths as a leader? What were considered his weaknesses or points of criticism regarding his style?

Resources: News reports, opinion articles, analysis pieces, (if available) clips of press conferences or parliamentary question time.

Discussion Prompt: How effective was his communication style in achieving his political objectives? How did it compare to other state or national leaders?

Activity 4: Citizenship, Controversy, and Legacy (30 mins)

Task: Synthesize the findings to consider the broader implications.

- How did Andrews' premiership engage with concepts of citizenship (e.g., public participation, rights, responsibilities, trust in government)?
- Identify 1-2 major controversies during his time as Premier. What do these controversies reveal about the challenges of governance and political accountability?
- Discuss the concept of 'legacy'. What might Dan Andrews' long-term legacy be for Victoria? Consider both positive and negative perspectives.

Discussion Prompts: How does the study of a specific leader like Dan Andrews enhance your understanding of Australian democracy? What does his career illustrate about the relationship between politicians, the media, and the public?

Assessment / Synthesis (Choose one or combine)

1. **Analytical Discussion:** Engage in a detailed discussion based on the research and prompts above, defending your viewpoints with evidence.
2. **Short Essay:** Write a 500-750 word essay addressing the question: "Evaluate the impact and legacy of Dan Andrews' premiership on Victorian politics and society." Ensure you reference specific policies, leadership aspects, and consider different perspectives.
3. **Presentation:** Prepare a short (5-10 minute) presentation summarizing your findings on Andrews' key policies, leadership style, and overall legacy.

Conclusion (10 mins)

Reflect on the complexities of political leadership at the state level. Discuss how understanding the actions and impact of individual leaders like Dan Andrews helps us become more informed and engaged citizens. Reiterate the connection between state government actions and the daily lives of citizens.