

## Civic Engagement Project

### *Civic Engagement Learning Activity/Assignment #1*

#### *Interview with a Civic Leader*

#### **Description:**

An active learning activity or assignment related to civic engagement. Students will interview civic, or community leaders committed to activities associated with civic engagement. The subjects for these interviews should be from different genres or forms of civic engagement (i.e. community service to aid the homeless, mayors, council members, volunteers for a local campaign, etc.) Students will engage the subjects in the following or similar types of questions:

#### **Interview Questions:**

1. What motivates you to be a civically engaged citizen?
2. When you are civically engaged, what are your goals in terms of what you hope to accomplish in that activity?
3. Do you feel that you gain anything personally from your experience of being civically engaged?

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn the source and function of values associated with a healthy democracy through interviewing these subjects involved in various types of civic engagement.
2. Students will compare the values, norms, and ideals of freedom associated with activities or events grounded in civic engagement.
3. Students will adopt an understanding of the importance of values, ethics, and social responsibility for the self and for contemporary society related to events or activities anchored in civic engagement.
4. Students will reflect on how values shape personal and community ethics and decision-making as they relate to civic engagement.
5. Students will relate issues surrounding values, ethics, and responsibilities to their own capacities to address ethical and social challenges.

## **Civic Engagement Project**

*Civic Engagement Learning Activity/Assignment #2*

*Community Problem Solving Project*

### **Description:**

Students will identify an issue in their local community and as a class develop or produce actionable solutions to address them. Some of these issues could concern things such as, for example, a local problem with the issue of littering, or a lack of recreational areas. Students can then as a class assignment, create a presentation, write a proposal, or design a campaign to address the issue

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Enhanced Civic Responsibility**-Students will develop an understanding of the importance of contributing to their community and how their actions can create a positive impact.
2. **Building Teamwork and Collaboration Skills**-By working with their peers in addressing community issues or problems, students will enhance their ability to collaborate and communicate effectively.
3. In organizing activities to address community issues or problems, students will develop critical leadership skills.
4. In organizing activities to address community problems or issues, students will experience personal growth and become more self-aware of their own values or value structure.

## Civic Engagement Project

### *Civic Engagement Learning Activity/Assignment #3*

#### *Volunteer Challenge*

#### **Description:**

Class instructors will encourage students to volunteer for a local organization or cause. Students will then, as a component of this assignment, document their experiences. Students can accomplish this through preparing a journal of their experience, taking and collecting photos of their experience, or creating a class presentation about the impact of their efforts. Volunteering can be a transformative experience for secondary school students. Some of the potential learning outcomes can be the following:

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. **Personal Growth**-Students will develop empathy, resilience, and confidence by connecting with people from diverse backgrounds or overcoming challenges during the volunteer work.
2. **Social Skills**- Improves teamwork, communication skills, and leadership abilities while collaborating with others in the organization or engaging with the community.
3. **Civic Awareness**- Students will learn about societal issues, local needs, and how collective efforts can drive change. It helps foster in students a sense of social responsibility.
4. **Problem-Solving Skills**-Students encounter real world problems that encourage creative thinking and adaptability.
5. **Reflection and Perspective**-Volunteerism as a form of civic engagement can often prompt self-reflection helping students understand their values, interests, and priorities.

## **Civic Engagement Project**

*Civic Engagement Learning Activity/Assignment #4*

*Class Mock Election or Debate*

### **Description:**

The class instructor will host a classroom mock election or debate on a particular topic relevant to the students' lives. In preparing for this learning activity or assignment, students will come to class prepared to argue from both sides of the argument relating to a relevant issue of concern. This aids students in developing a deeper understanding of the issue and the full scale of the challenges to adequately address it. Some of the learning outcomes for students associated with this learning activity or assignment are as follows:

### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will learn about America's election process as a constitutional democracy.
2. Students will develop valuable public speaking skills critical for future success.
3. Students will learn from this learning activity or assignment the importance of making informed decisions.
4. Students will learn about America's key institutions associated with America as a democracy.

## **Civic Engagement Project**

### *Civic Engagement Learning Activity/Assignment #5*

#### *Letter Writing Campaign*

#### **Description:**

Have your students write letters to their local representatives about a particular issue they are passionate about. With this learning activity or assignment, as the classroom instructor encourage students to voice their own opinions or perspectives to bring about or create change. The value of these assignments is that they can be both educational and empowering for students.

#### **Learning Outcomes:**

1. Students will develop advocacy skills and learn how to constructively voice their opinions to create change regarding an issue they care about.
2. Students will be able to connect classroom concepts to real world civic actions.
3. As a result of this assignment or learning activity, students will develop an interest in community involvement.
4. These assignment will motivate students to engage in active citizenship.