



INSTRUCT TEACHING GUIDE

10. CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND CIVIC ACTION

To teach students about their civic capacity, refer to:

- Introduction to Civic Engagement
- Introduction to Civic Action

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Civic Engagement

Part of being a responsible, informed citizen is engaging with the goals and challenges of the community. Use this discussion to help students reflect on ways they have been (or could be) involved with civic issues in their community. Begin by asking students the following questions:

- What does it mean to be civically engaged?
- What are the important civic issues in your community?
- How are you involved in your community?
- How do local and national civic issues impact you? What can you do to get involved?

Civic Action

To help students understand the difference between civic engagement and civic action, begin by asking them to come up with a definition for each. Students should be able to provide at least two real-world examples of each.

Once the class has a firm understanding of civic engagement and civic action, they may discuss their experiences. Students should be able to describe their civic experience, how it impacted their community, and speak to the benefits of being civically minded.

ACTIVITIES

Civic Engagement

This activity will help students identify civic initiatives in their local community. Ask students first to evaluate a challenge faced by their community and identify the organizations involved. Students then should be able to outline a detailed plan on how to get involved. This outline may include a review of existing initiatives, the history of the issue, the people involved, and potential opportunities.

For a long-term activity, students may complete their plan to become actively involved with a local cause. This may look like volunteering for a local organization after class or on weekends. Over the course of the class, students should keep a log of their experiences, goals, and frustrations to share with their peers.

This teaching guide can be used by Instruct customers who have selected the Critical Thinking content package.

Civic Action

In this activity, students will select a local or national issue for which to design a civic action plan. Begin by asking students to complete the following:

- Identify the top sources you will use to inform others to support your cause.
- Outline a communication plan including the target audience, scope, purpose, and delivery method.
- Identify key partners and leaders to contact.
- Detail necessary steps that will help maintain the future successes of the plan.

Students should be able to articulate their civic action plan in writing or as a verbal presentation to the class. To practice business communication skills, encourage students to treat the activity like a project proposal. Students even may choose to create a mock report for a local organization.

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