



Listing of Civic Learning Programs and Resources available to classrooms nationwide
***Compiled with help from the Civics Renewal Network & Annenberg Public Policy Center**

ABOTA Foundation

www.abotacivics.org

The ABOTA Foundation provides free civics and law-related education resources and programs to teachers and students. The mission of the ABOTA Foundation is to support the purposes of the American Board of Trial Advocates to preserve the constitutional vision of equal justice for all Americans and preserve our civil justice system for future generations.

American Bar Association

www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education.html

The mission of the Division for Public Education is to promote public understanding of law and its role in society. The Division provides national leadership in educating the public about legal issues, legal institutions and the rule of law. The Division works in partnership with bar associations, courts, educational institutions, civic organizations, and others to reach diverse public audiences, providing balanced information through its programs, publications, and resources.

Annenberg Classroom

www.annenbergclassroom.org

Annenberg Classroom, a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, provides a comprehensive multimedia Constitution curriculum for middle and high school students. Curriculum resources include more than 60 documentaries on landmark Supreme Court cases and conversations with Supreme Court justices; standards-aligned lesson plans; a Guide to the Constitution: What It Says, What It Means; critical thinking lesson plans; and timelines tied the Constitution's articles and amendments.

Annenberg Learner

www.learner.org

Annenberg Learner, a division of the Annenberg Foundation, uses multimedia and telecommunications to advance excellent teaching. Learner funds educational video series with Web and print materials that help teachers increase their expertise in their fields and improve their teaching practice. Many programs are also popular for classroom use and with home viewers. Learner advances the Foundation's goal of encouraging the development of more effective ways to share ideas and knowledge.

Ashbrook Center's TeachingAmerican History.org

www.teachingamericanhistory.org

The Ashbrook Center is an independent center at Ashland University, devoted to teaching what it means to be an American by providing educational programs for teachers, students and citizens focused on primary source documents.

Bill of Rights Institute

www.billofrights.org

The Bill of Rights Institute is focused on providing educational resources on America's Founding documents and principles for teachers and students of American History and Civics. The mission of the Bill of Rights Institute is to educate young people about the words and ideas of America's Founders, the liberties guaranteed in our Founding documents, and how our Founding principles continue to affect and shape a free society.

Center for Civic Education

www.civiced.org

The Center for Civic Education is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization based in California. The Center's programs are implemented with the assistance of a network of public- and private-sector organizations and educational leaders in every state and congressional district in the country and in more than 80 other countries, many of which are emerging and advanced democracies.

College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards

<http://socialstudies.org/c3>

The result of a three year state-led collaborative effort, the College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards was developed to serve two audiences: for states to upgrade their state social studies standards and for practitioners — local school districts, schools, teachers and curriculum writers — to strengthen their social studies programs. Its objectives are to: a) enhance the rigor of the social studies disciplines; b) build critical thinking, problem solving, and participatory skills to become engaged citizens; and c) align academic programs to the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy in History/Social Studies.

ConSource: The Constitutional Sources Project

www.consource.org

The mission of The Constitutional Sources Project is to increase understanding, facilitate research, and encourage discussion of the U.S. Constitution by connecting individuals — including students, teachers, lawyers and judges — with the documentary history of its creation, ratification, and amendment.

Constitutional Rights Foundation

www.crf-usa.org

The Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) seeks to instill in our nation's youth a deeper understanding of citizenship through values expressed in our Constitution and Bill of Rights and to educate young people to become active and responsible participants in our society. CRF is dedicated to assuring our country's future by investing in our youth today.

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

www.crfc.org

The Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago (CRFC) strengthens American democracy by providing elementary and secondary students with hands-on learning about the Constitution to prepare them for informed civic engagement. Nonprofit and nonpartisan, CRFC develops and delivers interactive programming, classroom-tested professional development, and problem-based curricula that address rights, law, and policy.

Deliberating in a Democracy

<http://deliberating.org/>

An international program to teach students how to deliberate controversial public issues.

Dirksen Congressional Center

www.dirksencongressionalcenter.org

For 35 years, The Dirksen Congressional Center, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, has provided funding and programs for teachers and scholars whose work enhances the public's understanding of Congress. Among these programs are research and special project grants totaling over \$500,000; 4,000 feet of archival collections related to Congress; and a Web suite offering unique historical materials and related educational content to more than two million visitors each year.

Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate

www.emkinstitute.org

Furthering Senator Kennedy's lifetime of service and passion for engaging in the public square, the Edward M. Kennedy Institute for the United States Senate is dedicated to educating the public about our government, invigorating public discourse, encouraging participatory democracy and inspiring the next generation of citizens and leaders to engage in our democracy. We offer public forums, professional retreats, and interactive, technology-rich educational programming.

George Washington's Mount Vernon

www.mountvernon.org

The National Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon is the preeminent center of learning about the life, civic conscience, and leadership of our nation's first President. A privately owned national treasure, Mount Vernon is maintained and operated by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Through robust education and outreach programs, the Association expands awareness of George Washington's character and legacy through research, interpretation, and public education.

Gilder Lehrman Institute for American History

www.gilderlehrman.org

Founded in 1994, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History is a nonprofit organization devoted to the improvement of history education. Each year the Institute offers programs, support and resources to tens of thousands of teachers in all 50 states, and through them enhances the education of more than a million students. The Institute's programs have been recognized by awards from the White House, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Organization of American Historians.

iCivics

www.icivics.org

iCivics was founded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to develop new and innovative approaches to civic education. Its game-centered curriculum provides students with the tools they need for active participation and democratic action. The curriculum is grouped into topical units that align to state and Common Core standards. Teachers in a wide variety of classrooms have successfully used iCivics, and their students are knowledgeable, engaged and eager to participate in civic action and discussion.

IllinoisCivics.org: Civics Classroom Resources for Direct Instruction

<http://illinoiscivics.blogspot.com/2016/04/civics-classroom-resources-for-direct.html>

The new Illinois Social Studies Standards and civics course requirement demonstrate that the “how” is as important as the “what” in closing the civic education gap. Just as knowledge of the Rules of the Road does not prepare a person to operate a motor vehicle; the ability to pass a test on civic knowledge does not prepare an individual for civic life. One needs to “get behind the wheel” and practice the knowledge, skills and dispositions of civic efficacy. Inquiry is the “GPS” that guides effective direct instruction in the civics classroom.

IllinoisCivics.org: We Build the Car, but YOU Have to Drive it

<http://illinoiscivics.blogspot.com/2016/05/we-build-car-but-you-have-to-drive-it.html>

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor states, “Knowledge of our system of government and rights and responsibilities as citizens is not passed down through the gene pool, it must be taught.” The new IL civics requirement elevates the use of simulations to this end. Simulations allow students to practice the knowledge, skills and dispositions of effective civic engagement as they meet the new inquiry-based standards for civics.

IllinoisCivics.org: Thermometers to Thermostats: Service Learning

<http://illinoiscivics.blogspot.com/2016/05/thermometers-to-thermostats-service.html>

The new Illinois civics course requirement and social studies standards embrace the need for students to communicate conclusions and take informed action in a safe environment. One of the most proven practices to this end is the use of service learning. Service Learning gives students an authentic platform to practice literacy skills as they address real world issues through the use interdisciplinary content, aptitudes and evidence, developing partnerships with institutions in their community as they work for improvement and sustainability. Students go beyond being “thermometers” taking the temperature of their environment, learning how they can be the “thermostats” that can change the climate of their community. They become agents of change.

IllinoisCivics.org: Harnessing the Power of Dialogue: Current and Controversial Issues Discussions

<http://illinoiscivics.blogspot.com/2016/05/harnessing-power-of-dialogue-current.html>

The new Illinois Social Studies Standards and civics course requirement elevates the discussion of current and controversial issues. Civil discourse is an authentic platform to practice literacy skills as students use disciplinary content to inquire into compelling questions facing our democratic republic- using evidence to communicate conclusions and take informed action.

Indiana University Center on Representative Government

corg.indiana.edu

The Indiana University Center on Representative Government is a nonpartisan educational institution producing multimedia resources for teachers, students, and the general public. The Center's mission is to help all Americans better understand the role of government at the local, state and national level in our representative democracy, to encourage civic participation, and to teach the skills of active and informed citizenship.

James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation

www.jamesmadison.gov

The James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation offers James Madison graduate fellowships to individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution at the secondary school level. Fellowship applicants compete only against other applicants from the states of their legal residence. Generally, one Fellowship per state is awarded each year. Applications are due on March 1 of each year and can be accessed at www.jamesmadison.gov.

Learning to Give: Civic Skills

<https://www.learningtogive.org/resources/civic-skills>

Civic skills provide the foundation for responsible and community-minded citizens, and reinforce our system of democracy. Those who possess and maximize the skills feel a link to their communities and to the well-being of other citizens.

Library of Congress

www.loc.gov

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with more than 155 million items in various languages, disciplines and formats. As the world's largest repository of knowledge and creativity, the Library is a symbol of democracy and the principles on which this nation was founded. The Library serves the Congress and the nation both on-site, in its reading rooms on Capitol Hill and through its award-winning website.

Mikva Challenge: Issues to Action

<http://www.mikvachallenge.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/DigitalIssuesAction.pdf>

Issues to Action is a six-step process in which students take on Action Civics projects to address problems in their schools or communities. This curriculum provides a framework for engaging youth in that process.

Mikva Challenge: Root Causes

http://actioncivicscollaborative.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MC_Root_Causes.pdf

In this lesson, students will use their research and their own expertise to dig to the root cause of their issue. Students learn to use the Root Cause Tree as a model for framing an issue's causes and symptoms.

National Archives and Records Administration

www.archives.gov/education

The National Archives and Records Administration is an independent Federal agency that preserves and shares with the public records that trace the story of our nation, government, and the American people. From the Declaration of Independence to accounts of ordinary Americans, the holdings of the National Archives directly touch the lives of millions of people. The National Archives is a nationwide network of archives, record centers, and Presidential Libraries.

National Constitution Center

constitutioncenter.org

As the Museum of We the People, the National Constitution Center brings the U.S. Constitution to life for visitors of all ages with interactive exhibits, theatrical performances, and original documents of freedom. As a Headquarters for Civic Education, the Constitution Center offers cutting-edge resources including the premier online Interactive Constitution. As America's Town Hall, the Constitution Center hosts timely conversations with distinguished scholars from across the political spectrum.

National Endowment for the Humanities, EDSITEment Project

edsitement.neh.gov

EDSITEment, the National Endowment for the Humanities website for K-12 educators, students, and life-long learners offers "The Best of the Web" through carefully crafted and reviewed lesson plans, websites, features, and student interactives in major humanities subject areas. Also discover a rich selection of NEH-funded products of special interest to teachers; professional development opportunities; and articles chosen for the classroom from NEH's award-winning bimonthly magazine, Humanities.

National History Day

www.nhd.org

National History Day is a dynamic, year-round academic program with over 600,000 student participants from sixth through 12th grade from around the globe. NHD uses student research contests, educator professional development, and advanced evidence-based classroom curriculum to improve education and student performance.

National School Climate Center: Community Scale

<http://www.schoolclimate.org/climate/community-scale.php>

NSCC's *Community Scale* (Scale) and *School-Community Partnership Process* (Process) engages middle and high school students to take a leadership role taking a very short survey to fifteen sectors of the larger school community (from the faith based, local media and law enforcement to local political and other civic leaders, arts organizations and more) to ask them two sets of questions: (1) What is your perception of current school-community partnerships; and (2) to what extent would you be interested in learning about and actively supporting the schools improvement efforts?

Newseum

newseumed.org

The mission of the Newseum is to champion the five freedoms of the First Amendment through education, information and entertainment. One of the top attractions in Washington, D.C., the Newseum blends news history with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits, and its Newseum Institute serves as a forum for First Amendment study, exploration and education. The Newseum is a 501(c)(3) public charity funded by generous individuals, corporations and foundations, including the Freedom Forum.

The Political Classroom: Resources for Social Studies Teachers

<http://thepoliticalclassroom.com/resources.php>

Creating a political classroom requires high quality materials. Below is a list of websites and organizations that teachers might draw upon to prepare students for discussion and to find activities that get students talking about political issues.

Rendell Center for Civics and Civic Engagement

www.rendellcenter.org

Founded by Former Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell and Federal Judge Marjorie Rendell, the Rendell Center promotes civic education and engagement. To accomplish this, we offer opportunities for educators and students to develop the knowledge, practices and dispositions of engaged citizenship. For educators, we create curriculum content, pedagogical tools, and professional development experiences. The Rendell Center also provides to students of all ages and grade levels opportunities, events, and spaces for dialogue about and engagement with issues of citizenship and civics.

The Right Question Institute

<http://rightquestion.org/education/>

The skill of question asking is far too rarely deliberately taught in school. We have worked with and learned from educators to develop a teaching strategy that provides a simple, yet powerful way to get students asking their own questions and building off their peers' questions.

Share My Lesson

sharemylesson.com

Developed by the American Federation of Teachers and TSL Education, Share My Lesson is a place where educators can come together to share their greatest teaching resources and collaborate on best practices at no cost. Share My Lesson features a significant resource bank aligned to the Common Core State Standards, including advice and guidance to aid in their successful implementation.

Street Law

streetlaw.org

Street Law, Inc. creates classroom and community programs that teach people about law, democracy, and human rights worldwide. Our engaging, practical lessons help people develop the skills they need to improve their lives and strengthen their communities.

TeachingHistory.org: Structured Academic Controversy

<http://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials/teaching-guides/21731>

By the time students reach adolescence many believe that every issue comes neatly packaged in a pro/con format, and that the goal of classroom discussion, rather than to understand your opponent, is to defeat him. The SAC method provides an alternative to the “debate mindset” by shifting the goal from winning classroom discussions to understanding alternative positions and formulating historical syntheses. The SAC’s structure demands students listen to each other in new ways and guides them into a world of complex and controversial ideas.

Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello

monticello.org

For almost 90 years, Monticello has been maintained and kept open to the public by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc., which owns over 2,500 acres of Jefferson's 5,000-acre plantation. The new Monticello Digital Classroom, launched in 2017, combines content from the prior classroom archive with materials from the Sea of Liberty website. The site includes lesson plans, articles, and multimedia content for use by teachers, students, and scholars of all levels. All materials are cross-referenced, searchable, and available for download.

Tony Blair Faith Foundation

<http://tonyblairfaithfoundation.org/projects/supporting-next-generation/supporting-next-generation-essentials-dialogue-0>

We must give students the tools to build societies that welcome diversity and encourage an open-minded and inclusive approach. To do this, teachers need straightforward and simple classroom activities.

Essentials of Dialogue began as an indispensable part of our Generation Global education programme. We now offer it for use in classrooms all over the world. It is free of charge to help anyone who wants to give young people, quite literally, the essentials of dialogue. Each chapter includes theory and practical activities to help you explore, develop, and practise the skills of dialogue in your classroom.

U.S. Courts

www.uscourts.gov

Open Doors to Federal Courts is a bank of web resources and realistic court experiences developed by the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts for courtroom or classroom use. They inform with practical content about court structure and operations; inspire with first-person judge profiles; and involve high school students and teachers in true-to-life courtroom simulations with federal judges.

What So Proudly We Hail

www.whatsoproudlywehail.org

What So Proudly We Hail provides free resources and lesson plans to language arts and social studies teachers, demonstrating how short stories, speeches, and songs can be used to enhance civic education. Created by educators Amy Kass and Leon Kass, it seeks to educate both hearts and minds about American ideals and national character. WSPWH has been recognized by educators as an innovative tool for implementing the Common Core Standards and preparing students for college-level coursework.

Youth Leadership Initiative

www.youthleadership.net

The Youth Leadership Initiative at the University of Virginia Center for Politics is dedicated to increasing civic engagement by providing teachers with the best civics education materials and programs. Research shows that quality civics education programs are essential to creating lifelong citizenship and YLI programs empower students to take responsibility for our democracy. YLI believes that, "Politics is a Good Thing!"

Service Learning Resources:

National Youth Leadership Council

www.nylc.org/

For more than 30 years, NYLC has transformed classrooms, empowered teachers, and captivated students by leading the way in providing high-quality, dynamic service-learning content to school districts, classrooms, out-of-school youth programs, and everything in between. Our programs and services develop young leaders, support educators, and advance the field of service-learning.

NATIONAL SERVICE-LEARNING CLEARINGHOUSE

<https://gsn.nylc.org/clearinghouse>

The Clearinghouse is the Nation's #1 library of service-learning resources. The Clearinghouse offers thousands of free online resources for K-12, higher education, community based organization, and tribal communities.

Earth Force

www.earthforce.org/

Earth Force engages young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future. Earth Force develops young people with the knowledge, skills, and motivation to solve tough environmental problems. Earth Force students improve their STEM knowledge by generating and applying data to address issues in their community. Earth Force students develop civic skills by working with communities to solve local problems.

Resources for using contemporary and controversial issues and promoting civil discourse in the classroom:

ProCon.org

www.procon.org

ProCon.org, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit nonpartisan public charity, provides professionally-researched pro, con, and related information on more than 50 controversial issues from gun control and death penalty to illegal immigration and alternative energy. Using the fair, FREE, and unbiased resources at ProCon.org, millions of people each year learn new facts, think critically about both sides of important issues, and strengthen their minds and opinions.

Facing History and Ourselves

www.facinghistory.org

Facing History and Ourselves is a nonprofit international educational and professional development organization. Our mission is to engage students of diverse backgrounds in an examination of racism, prejudice, and antisemitism in order to promote the development of a more humane and informed citizenry.

Facing History and Ourselves: Democracy and Civic Engagement

<https://www.facinghistory.org/topics/democracy-civic-engagement>

Democracy thrives when informed, active, and humane citizens coexist with institutions that uphold the rule of law and shared values. Yet we see every day how fragile democracy can be. Investigate cornerstones of successful democracies, including religious freedom, a free press, media literacy, and living with difference.

The Choices Program

www.choices.edu/

The Choices Program is non-profit organization based at Brown University. We develop curricula on current and historical international and public policy issues and offer professional development for educators. Choices materials incorporate the latest scholarship from Brown University and beyond to draw connections between historical events and contemporary international issues.

Transforming Words into Action: Service Learning as a Teaching Strategy

<http://www.cbkassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Transforming-Words-into-Action.pdf>

Simply put, service learning offers a reliable process for applying accumulated knowledge and skills to meet authenticated community needs. During the process, students continually add to what they know, confirm or reconsider attitudes and belief, and become more aware of their own place in the world. This can be applied to both a classroom academic experience and to independent or group student led approaches to learning and service.

Media Literacy Resources:

The News Literacy Project

www.thenewsliteracyproject.org/

The News Literacy Project (NLP) is a nonpartisan national education nonprofit that works with educators and journalists to teach middle school and high school students how to sort fact from fiction in the digital age. NLP provides these students with the essential skills they need to become smart, active consumers of news and information and engaged, informed citizens.

Journalism Education Association

<http://jea.org/>

The Journalism Education Association is the largest scholastic journalism organization for teachers and advisers. Put simply, we educate teachers on how to educate students. We fulfill this goal through numerous activities: We provide training around the country at national conventions and institutes. We offer national certification for teaching high school journalism. We publish print and online resources on the latest trends in journalism education. We provide avenues for virtual discussion among teachers, as well as communities and mentoring to learn best practices. We monitor and actively defend First Amendment and scholastic press rights issues across the country.

Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University

www.centerfornewsliteracy.org

The Center for News Literacy at Stony Brook University is committed to teaching students how to use critical thinking skills to judge the reliability and credibility of news reports and news sources. It is the only center of its kind in the United States. Funded by a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the center has taught News Literacy to more than 10,000 undergraduates—from all academic disciplines. The Center also is at work developing innovative curriculum materials for high schools and the general public through the [Digital Resource Center](#), funded by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

National Association for Media Literacy Education

<https://namle.net/>

NAMLE's mission is to be the leading voice, convener and resource to foster critical thinking and effective communication for empowered media participation. We define both education and media broadly. Education includes both formal and informal settings, classrooms and living rooms, in school and after school, anywhere that lifelong learners can be reached. Media includes digital media, computers, video games, radio, television, mobile media, print, and communication technologies that we haven't even dreamed of yet.

Research on Civic Learning, Youth and Civic Engagement:

Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement at Tufts University

www.civicyouth.org

CIRCLE, the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, focuses on young people in the United States, especially those who are marginalized or disadvantaged in political life. CIRCLE's scholarly research informs policy and practice for healthier youth development and a better democracy. CIRCLE has a reputation for reliable, independent, timely research. CIRCLE provides a stream of reliable data and analysis that helps Americans to understand the strengths and weaknesses of civic education, broadly defined.

Civic Learning Policy Resources:

Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools

www.civicmissionofschools.org

Co-Chaired by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and former Congressman Lee Hamilton, the Campaign is a coalition of over 60 civic learning, civic engagement, education and policymaker organizations, dedicated to heightening awareness of the critical need for civic learning and to working to change policies at the district, state and federal levels so that civic learning receives the time, resources and innovation the subject deserves. CMS works with a network of state campaigns and civic learning champions in each state.

National Center for Learning & Citizenship at the Education Commission of the States

www.ecs.org/initiatives/national-center-for-learning-civic-engagement/

The National Center for Learning and Civic Engagement (NCLCE) is a center within Education Commission of the States committed to strengthening civic learning and engagement opportunities for students across the country. NCLCE supports state education leaders' efforts to foster civic learning and engagement opportunities for all students. NCLCE provides state education leaders with technical assistance and opportunities for collaboration, including sharing and showcasing examples of high-quality policies, models and best practices for civic engagement and civic education.