

Additional Resources for Teachers

Below you'll find a short list of some of our favorite civics websites and lesson plans. Generation Citizen's action civics program works to promote the development of students' civic knowledge, skills, and motivation. These resources support one or all of those goals.



[Beyond the Ballot](#) is a 2-day lesson plan created by Generation Citizen prior to the 2016 election results. The goal behind the lessons was to remind people that politics is so much more than just the presidential election and to encourage people, students in particular, to get involved at the local level to support issues they care about. It supports student civic knowledge, skills, and motivation.



[iCivics](#) exists to ensure all students have the knowledge needed to understand how their government works. The site includes lesson plans, activities, games, and other resources. The games sometimes serve as simulations to help students evaluate best next steps or actions in a civic situation. iCivics is useful for developing student civic knowledge and skills.



[Annenberg Learner](#) has a wealth of resources for civics teachers much like iCivics – lesson plans, activities, and videos. It is helpful as it supports development of student knowledge, skills, and motivation. While there are many lessons on knowledge, this [lesson on Civic Engagement](#) does a great job of supporting student growth in skills and motivation.



[Mikva Challenge](#) is an organization that works to develop youth voice and eliminate the civic achievement gap. While Mikva has multiple program offerings, they also provide lessons and resources to teachers for implementation in the classroom. Some of the topics in their [classroom resources](#) include: elections, civic literacy, justice and safety, and analyzing news media. Mikva supports student development of civic knowledge, skills, and motivation.



[Politicraft](#) is “a narrative-based ACTION CIVICS card game, endorsed by the National Council for the Social Studies, that guides students through varying levels of civic engagement. Through game play, students are guided by the deck to craft narratives based upon civic issues of their choosing (e.g. personal, local, national, etc.). Doing so informs students of the multiple pathways available to them to achieve real change in their community.” When using the game, it may helpful to build in student reflection by having students keep track of their actions and do a short write up at the end about the actions they took and why. Politicraft is useful as it supports the goal of civic skills.



[We the Voters](#) works to ensure Americans have access to nonpartisan information about democracy, elections and U.S. governance. They partnered with [PBS](#) to [create short films and lesson plans](#) to “provide a fresh perspective on democracy, elections, governance, and debating.” We the Voters resources contribute to the development of student civic motivation.



[Issue Voter](#) is a resource for individuals to keep up with current legislation, send opinions to their representatives, and track their representatives' actions. Issue Voter is a great resource as it supports student civic knowledge and skills. Incorporating Issue Voter ([this lesson](#), for example) in your class is a great way to enable and empower your students to participate in the legislative process.



[Teach Interact](#) is a company that produces resources for teachers to engage their students in their learning. “Each unit includes a teacher's guide, purpose and overview, daily lesson plans, student materials, time management guidelines, and support materials.” Though they have units on dozens of subjects, their unit entitled [Taking Informed Action](#) has great step by step resources and plans for teachers to implement civic engagement projects with their students. This unit provided enables teachers to support the student growth in civic skills and motivation. *It should be noted that this resource costs \$29.95.



[The Constitutional Rights Foundation](#) provides a Civic Action Project known as [CAP](#) that “is a free project-based learning program for civics and government... it is a culmination of students' social studies education, a chance for them to apply what they have learned to the real world and impact an issue that matters to them.” CAP provides an action civics project that supports student growth in civic knowledge, skills, and motivation.