

Get Involved! - Civic Participation Project

Purpose:

In addition to regular course work in Civics & Economics, you will be required to complete a Civics Participation Project. To really understand the importance of **civic responsibility** more completely, it is best that you get involved yourself! To that end, as part of your final grade in this course, you will complete a minimum of six hours of civic participation, obtain documentation of your participation, and reflect upon your experiences in writing. Please note that activities sponsored through school ARE NOT eligible for this project.

Basic Requirements:

- Minimum participation is 6 hours.
- You must research at least 3 different opportunities then choose that which interests you the most.
- Participation categories include:
 - Elected or Appointed Officials—volunteer in the office of an elected representative or a local government official
 - Political Campaigns—local, state, and national volunteer opportunities are often available
 - Government Offices—observe/volunteer at the mayor’s office, Board of Elections, Department of Public Instruction, etc.
 - Non-Profit Groups—observe/volunteer at a local non-profit (i.e. food bank, shelter, donation center, etc.)
 - Political Parties—volunteer or attend meetings/special functions of the various parties
 - Policymakers and Lawmakers—observe meetings of the School Board, City Council, County Commission, etc.
 - Law Enforcement & Courts—“ride-alongs” with police, attend court hearings/trials, etc. (NOTE—Traffic Court does not qualify for this project)
- All arrangements needed to complete this project, including transportation, are your responsibility. If you have a special circumstance for which transportation is an issue, please speak with me.
- You must get documentation for each activity that you attend. Documentation can be handouts from meetings, letters from volunteer supervisors, etc. Parents can certify your participation in writing if no other form of documentation is available.
- You must complete a journal that includes an entry for each of your experiences. Please include the following details for each entry:
 - Journal must be typed (please use standard margins, font-size, style, double-spaced, etc.).
 - List the title and location of each activity that you complete (example: Wake County School Board Meeting, 3600 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh NC)
 - State the date and time of each activity
 - Include a detailed account of your participation, focusing on what you learned in each activity you’re your reactions/opinions regarding what took place. Look especially for significance. What did you learn about government, politics, law, society, etc. from the activity? Can you draw connections between your various activities and class concepts?
 - Write at least half a page for every hour of your participation. Since you are required to complete six hours of participation, this journal should be a minimum of three pages.
- This project is worth _____% of your second term grade.
- **Due Date:** _____

Please sign and return to teacher:

As the parent of _____ (name of student), I understand the requirements of the Civic Participation Project, including hours required, journal length, and due date. I understand that I may contact my student’s teacher if I have questions or concerns.

Parent Signature Date

E-mail Phone