

Suggestions for Implementing Civic Engagement/Critical Thinking in your public library.

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We are a very small library that cannot devote a lot of staff time or resources towards civics education and critical thinking. What can we do?

- ✓ Host discussions based on articles / books about civics, critical thinking, current events
- ✓ Have “cheat-sheets” / resource lists on the above
- ✓ Start a Human Library <http://humanlibrary.org/> “The Human Library is designed to build a positive framework for conversations that can challenge stereotypes and prejudices through dialogue.” Yes, it’s real. It began in Denmark and has been replicated in over a hundred libraries. Include cross-partisan dialog.

We are a mid-sized library that can devote some staff time and resources towards civics education. Add:

- ✓ Bring in a local community advocate to talk about what they do but also to give general advocacy advice
- ✓ Prepare a resource sheet about elections and campaign finance that goes beyond the mechanics of voting
- ✓ If you are near a college, perhaps a student majoring in: Political Science, Education, History, etc. could come and speak about some topics [and even get credit for it!]
- ✓ Plan for limited but consistent programming. Perhaps rotate the topics so each year has a specific Civics focus

We are a large public library. The above plus:

- ✓ Planning around these topics should be included in programming budgets.
- ✓ Train interested, talented, instructional librarians to be your “Civics Specialists”

Selections from workshop Resource Lists - You will find complete lists at www.civictinker.net

Misinformation and Political Propaganda Workshop

Factcheck.org <http://www.factcheck.org> **Politifact** <http://www.politifact.org> **Snopes** <http://www.snopes.com>

6 Quick Ways to Spot Fake News. LaCapria. Snopes. Jan 21, 2016

<http://www.snopes.com/2016/01/21/6-quick-ways-spot-fake-news/>

How to Spot Fake News. Politifact. [video]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkwWcHekMdo>

Citizen Evidence Lab Authentication Techniques for Human Rights Researchers

<https://citizenevidence.org/> Audio-video fact-checking

Journalism: Last Week Tonight with John Oliver. Aug 7, 2016 Excellent commentary if you don’t mind swearing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq2_wSsDwkQ

Logical Fallacies Video – a humorous look at how several different logical fallacies work [or don’t!]

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wmlb2Jb-KC8&list=PL47349652D60D963E&index=1&feature=plpp_video

Example of Good Reporting – No judgements, no reporter perspective; just the facts:

Train crash in Germany kills at least 10, injures 80

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-3438398/Train-crash-southern-Germany-causes-injuries.html>

Citizen Advocacy 101

Becoming a Citizen Activist Licata. Sasquatch Books.2016

Community Tool Box <http://ctb.ku.edu/en>

All, but, especially, **Advocating for Change** <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/advocating-change>

Georgia House Minority Leader, Representative Stacey Abrams, on Effective Advocacy. 2011.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r1-np2iYxOY>

Oregon State Legislature Citizen Engagement Page. https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement

Check out “How to Testify”; good instruction, although you needn’t always be this formal.

Tips for Communicating with Legislators. City of Portland but applies to legislature.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/555173>

https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/citizen_engagement/Pages/How-to-Testify.aspx

Oregon Government Ethics Commission has a database of lobbyists <http://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Pages/index.aspx>

State of Oregon manual on lobbying.

<http://www.oregon.gov/OGEC/docs/Lobby/Lobby%20Guides/Lobby%20Guide%202010.pdf>

State of Oregon manual on Initiative and Referendum. <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/stateIR.pdf>

OLIS [Oregon Legislative Information Service]. The best way to: find bills, track bills, provide testimony.

<https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2017R1>

Congress.gov Find and track bills, legislators, committees <https://www.congress.gov/>

Govtrack Find and track bills, legislators, committees <https://www.govtrack.us/>

Center for American Women in Politics. <http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/>

Women in Elective Office 2017. Fact Sheet. Center for American Women in Politics.

<http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/women-elective-office-2017>

Beyond Voting: Elections / Campaign Financing

State of Oregon Election Laws <http://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Pages/laws-rules.aspx>

Does the U.S. Constitution Guarantee Americans an Affirmative Individual Right to Vote?

American Constitution Society. Sept 13, 2011.

<https://www.acslaw.org/acsblog/does-the-us-constitution-guarantee-americans-an-affirmative-individual-right-to-vote>

State Voter Identification Requirements: Analysis, Legal Issues, and Policy Considerations. Congressional Research

Service. July, 2016. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42806.pdf>

Felony Disenfranchisement. The Sentencing Project

<http://www.sentencingproject.org/issues/felony-disenfranchisement/>

Report and Recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170124195725/https://www.supportthevoter.gov/files/2014/01/Amer-Voting-Exper-final-draft-01-09-14-508.pdf> [Note: this bipartisan effort started in 2013; in Jan, 2017, the site was taken down. Find out

more and connect to additional resources here: <http://civicdesign.org/where-has-supportthevoter-gov-gone/>]

GAO Report: **Elections: Issues Related to Registering Voters and Administering Elections.** June, 2016.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678131.pdf>

Electoral System Design: The New International IDEA Handbook 2008

http://www.idea.int/publications/esd/upload/Idea_ESD_full.pdf

Electoral College https://ballotpedia.org/Electoral_College

National Popular Vote <http://www.nationalpopularvote.com/> A “work-around” the Electoral College

Redistricting. Brennan Center <http://www.brennancenter.org/content/section/category/redistricting/>

Redistricting Matters: Oregonians for improving our redistricting process

Joint reform efforts of Common Cause, League of Women Voters, AARP and City Club of Portland

<http://www.redistrictingmatters.org/>

Oregon Secretary of State <http://www.leg.state.or.us/redistricting/>

Campaign contribution limits in the states. National Conference of State Legislatures.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/campaign-contribution-limits-overview.aspx>

Questions about 527 and 501(c) 4 orgs.

<https://www.opensecrets.org/outsidespending/faq.php>

Difference between SuperPACS and “dark money” [money from the non-profits]. Start at “Here’s a huge caveat”:

<https://sunlightfoundation.com/blog/2015/10/30/the-difference-between-super-pacs-and-dark-money-groups/>

Secret Spending in the States. Brennan Center. Very important report.

https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/analysis/Secret_Spending_in_the_States.pdf

Citizens United Opinion [Be sure to check out the dissenting opinion, too. Starts on page 88.]

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/09pdf/08-205.pdf>

Public Financing of Elections brochure

<http://www.fec.gov/pages/brochures/pubfund.shtml>

Oregon legislators propose national vote-by-mail bill. Talia Richmond. Oregonian. July 14, 2016.

http://www.oregonlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/07/sens_wyden_merkley_propose_nat.html

Influence of the Constitution on Political Conversation

The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution Joseph Ellis. 2015. Creation of the Constitution. Great book.

Fighting over the Founders: How we remember the American Revolution Andrew M. Schocket. 2015.

Creating a Constitution video from Annenberg Institute for Civics

<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/key-constitutional-concepts>

Constitutions of the World

<http://confinder.richmond.edu/>

Rights in the Modern Era: Applying the Bill of Rights to the States Wermiel. 1992

<http://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1554&context=wmborj>