



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

10 Mostly Instructional Practices To Improve Civic Engagement in Any Classroom

This list was created to answer a question from teachers and administrators about what they could do in their classes/schools to improve civic engagement. The following suggestions can be utilized in Math, Science, ELA, Art, Band, PE, Computer Education, Business, CTE, or any other classroom. . .

Practice	Explanation	Resources <i>The Kansas State Department of Education does not endorse any program, resource, or website, the informational resources below may be useful to teachers as they contemplate civic engagement.</i>
#10 Make connections to the real world	<i>Make it relevant! Whatever you teach to whomever you teach it, make a connection to what is going on in the world today. Have your class “spill over” into the real world and allow the real world to “spill over” into your class.</i>	<u>Why Teachers Need To Make Instruction Relevant</u> <u>Short Article about Culturally Relevant Instruction</u> <u>Blog Post by Sara Briggs On How to Make Instruction Relevant</u>
#9 Use classroom discussion	<i>Use moderated classroom discussion to talk about issues considered by students as important. Teach students how to respectfully disagree, give critical feedback, and understand the perspectives of others. Encourages students to sharpen their thinking and rhetorical skills.</i>	<u>Article from the University of Washington on How to Manage Discussion</u> <u>10 Benefits of Discussion in the Classroom</u> <u>Article on Effective Classroom Discussion</u>
#8 Teach Reflection	<i>Direct instruction and practice on the fixing of the mind on some subject and giving that subject deep and serious thought creates an opportunity for unique teacher student dialogue, improves self-awareness, openness, perspectives, and builds a community of learners</i>	<u>Blog Post by Joshua Block on Reflection</u> <u>Chapter 12 Teaching on Reflection from Learning and Leading with Habits of Mind</u> <u>Short Article on 15 Ways to Spark Reflection</u>
#7 Demonstrate Enthusiasm and Passion	<i>Enthusiasm is contagious. Use your passion to fuel theirs. Enlist the class in a school or community project you are passionate about. Have them join you as you make a difference.</i>	<u>Short Article on Enthusiastic and Passionate Teaching</u> <u>5 Ways to show your passion for learning</u> <u>Short Article about the Importance of Teacher Enthusiasm</u>

#6 Student Choice	<i>Give students choice. Where to sit, what kind of assignment, or assessment, perhaps even what to study. Choice empowers students. Students who feel like they can change the world will.</i>	<p><u>Short Article on Student Choice</u></p> <p><u>Blog Post by Rebecca Alber on 5 Ways To Give Students More Choice</u></p> <p><u>7 Ways to Hack Your Classroom to Include Student Choice</u></p>
#5 Student Voice	<i>Give students a say in the learning and living environment at school. Allow students to create tasks, rubrics, and/or classroom rules. Allow students to be heard and play an authentic role in governance and leadership in your classroom and in your school.</i>	<p><u>Short article on how Schools can Promote Student Voice</u></p> <p><u>Blog Post by Bill Palmer on EDUTOPIA</u></p> <p><u>Blog Post by John McCarthy on Establishing a Culture of Student Voice on EDUTOPIA</u></p>
#4 Comfort the uncomfortable	<i>Like enthusiasm compassion is also contagious. Students who are in need of comfort and receive it tend to return the favor. Students who witness it tend to imitate it.</i>	<p><u>Why Empathy in the Classroom is Vital and how to practice it</u></p> <p><u>Blog Post by Joshua Block on EDUTOPIA</u></p> <p><u>The Importance of Empathy by Jordan Catapano</u></p>
#3 Make uncomfortable the comfortable	Challenge their thinking, perceived realities, prejudices, and biases. Don't make it easy for confident/comfortable students to slide by. Force them to confront their values and real world problems. Create cognitive dissonance.	<p><u>Article on Cognitive Dissonance</u></p> <p><u>Article on How Cognitive Dissonance Creates Leaders</u></p> <p><u>From Cognitive Dissonance to Self-Motivated Learning -- Hansen</u></p>
#2 Be a Role Model	In order for your student's to be civically engaged they need to see adults being civically engaged. Volunteer, support a cause, vote . . . Tell your kids when and what causes you volunteer for. Tell them when you vote, have jury duty, attend a meeting, read the news, or write your representative. "Be the change you want to see in your kids."	<p><u>25 Ways Teachers Can Be Role Models</u></p> <p><u>Lumpkin Article on Teacher Role Modeling</u></p> <p><u>Lengthy Slide Share of why teachers are important role models</u></p>
#1 Be a Mentor	A wise, trusted, influential counselor or supporter. Some kids need more help than others. You will impact their lives greatly and they yours. It will be your greatest and most rewarding contribution to civic engagement.	<p><u>Great Article by Marilyn Price-Mitchell</u></p> <p><u>Study on Mentoring High Risk Youth</u></p> <p><u>Kansas Mentors Program Tips for Mentors</u></p>

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