

Civic Engagement Project

Submit a roughly 500--750 word, original written piece. It can take one of several forms (Letter, Op-Ed, Presentation, Article, Interview, Film/Book Review, Report, Analysis of a Meeting, Biography) and should have at least 2 audiences: the real-world audience/person/citizenry/government body and the teacher. It can be persuasive, informative, and/or objective. The 500-750 word piece can stand alone, or it can consist of text to accompany another product (captions and an explanation for a PowerPoint presentation, a script, a website, blog, or podcast, an ad campaign, an analysis of data, survey questions and analyzed results, etc.). For more unique products or genres, consider a separate Intro and/or Conclusion to give the reader context.

You may find useful [pp. 131--137 of the CED](#), which describes the project and offers examples.

The Format:

An Original Title

Student's Name

Word Count

1-2 specific sentences explaining How you engaged civically.

Body of the Piece: Thee 500-750 words of text

A "Sources" List and Links (Do NOT simply paste full URL. Include Author, Name of work, organization, date, method of interview, etc.)

The final product/piece must:

Answer deep and thoughtful questions and curiosities.

Show a level of civic engagement/that student engaged government and/or relevant experts/institutions.

Prove a level of attained expertise.

Demonstrate good writing skills. Follow Strunk & White's *Elements of Style* and conventional writing customs.

Cite sources within the text of the piece and include a "Sources" list at the end.

Rely on a respectable mix of secondary sources (books, documentaries, In-depth articles) and primary sources (personal accounts, data, public records, reports, interviews).

Use the internet in a general, expert, and personal way. Start with secondary sources, then use databases and unique primary info found via unique web sites, and finally, use email/contact forms/staff directories to locate and connect with human, expert sources.

- David Wolfford, Teacher Mariemont High School, Cincinnati, and author of *AMSCO's AP U.S. Government and Politics* (Perfection Learning).