

There are many choices for using ENGAGE to inspire students to become more civically literate. Visit our [GET ENGAGED](#) web page for ideas for your classroom.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Century Theme

#### Civic Literacy

- Participating effectively in civic life through knowing how to stay informed and understanding governmental processes
- Exercising the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national and global levels
- Understanding the local and global implications of civic decisions

#### Suggestions:

ENGAGE shows people of all ages and from all walks of life how to get involved in the process of governance. Consider the following for your classroom:

- Assign a research issue
  - Have your students scan local news sources and come up with a list of issues to study. Students then choose an issue, present the issue to the class, debate the issue, and use evidence to support both sides.
- Contact a local legislator
  - Either by spring-boarding off of the above assignment or through other means, have students contact a local legislator concerning an issue
  - Be prepared to assess the experience
    - Phone calls and office visits
      - Have the student prepare a list of talking points
      - Ask for documentation if possible (photographs, recordings, etc.)
      - Ask for a summary of the conversation
    - Letters and emails
      - Grade the content of the letter
      - Does it make a good argument?
      - Is it direct?
      - Is it respectful of opposing views?
      - Is it respectful of the officeholder?
    - Community Service
      - Document the need
      - Document the experience
      - Write a reaction piece describing the event and the aftermath
- Create a blog, YouTube video, or other social media commentary
  - Assess the content
  - Consider the impact
  - Consider the medium as part of the message

In all cases, relevant, authentic experiences should be the norm rather than the exception. High school students have the opportunity to be part of the civic conversation. Providing them with tools and validating real-world interactions they have is key to a successful civics classroom.

