OUR MISSION

Generation Citizen works to ensure that every student in the United States receives the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens. We envision a country of young people working to collectively strengthen our American democracy.

WHERE WE WORK

CALIFORNIA
KENTUCKY
MASSACHUSETTS
NEW YORK
OKLAHOMA
RHODE ISLAND
TEXAS
UTAH

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE PARTNERS

THE PROBLEM

An effective democracy demands a citizenry that is educated and engaged, yet:

- **20%** Young people are divorcing from the political process
  - Only 20% of Millennials trust the federal government to do what is right most of the time.

- **64%** Young people do not see the political system as a way to make change
  - 64% of Millennials assert that it is a priority for them to make the world a better place, yet do not see the political system as the best way to enact change.

- **23%** Teaching civics is not a priority in schools
  - Only 23% of 8th graders were proficient in civics, the worst result second to history.

- **50%** A civics education gap has emerged
  - Low-income students are half as likely to study how laws are made.

THE SOLUTION: ACTION CIVICS

To lead change, we must first teach it. Generation Citizen advances its mission through an action civics curriculum which focuses on educating young people to be informed and active citizens.

WHAT IS ACTION CIVICS?

**STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT THE POLITICAL PROCESS BY ENGAGING IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS.**

1. Students debate and build consensus around an issue that personally affects them
2. Students research and analyze the root causes of their issue, and develop an action plan
3. Students put plans into action by meeting with legislators, creating petitions, and informing policy
4. Students present their action plans to community leaders at Civics Day
5. Back in the classroom, students reflect and explore concrete ways to remain active, politically engaged citizens
6. Students are prepared and motivated for long term political engagement.

CLASSROOM FOCUS ISSUES EXAMPLES

- **JUSTICE & EQUALITY:** Bullying, Discrimination, Affordable Housing & More
- **HEALTH:** Sex Education, PTSD among Veterans, Suicide Prevention & More
- **ENVIRONMENT:** Reducing Plastic Use, Water Conservation, Littering & More
- **ECONOMY & JOBS:** Youth Unemployment, Job Training, Employment Opportunities & More
- **PUBLIC SAFETY:** Police and Community Relations, Gun Control, Safe Streets & More
- **EDUCATION & STUDENT VOICE:** Life Skills, Equitable School Funding, College Access & More

To address the civic engagement gap, an average of 72% of GC students across our sites receive free-or-reduced-price lunch.
THE IMPACT

Academics and experts in the field agree upon three indicators which best predict a student’s likelihood of future civic engagement: Civic Knowledge, Civic Skills, and Civic Motivation.

Generation Citizen evaluates its impact through pre- and post-semester surveys of students, mid- and end-of-semester surveys of teachers and Democracy Coaches, and ongoing classroom observations.

CIVIC KNOWLEDGE

Civic knowledge is a student’s ability to grasp basic civic knowledge, which is taught throughout the course. This includes understanding how the governmental process works, and who the basic players are.

79% of students improved civic knowledge
91% of students think learning from different opinions is important

YEUNG PEOPLE GAIN CONFIDENCE, GROW AS LEADERS, AND AS STUDENTS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT ANYONE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

SUMMER KENNEDY, BROWN UNIVERSITY DEMOCRACY COACH

CIVIC SKILLS

Civic skills is a student’s ability to use acquired skills to effectively participate in the political process. This includes oral and written persuasive communication, group-work, and critical thinking - all vital to being an engaged citizen.

73% of students improved civic skills
87% believed they could work well with others to solve a problem

...BY LEARNING ABOUT OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT IN A PROJECT-BASED, HANDS-ON WAY, MY STUDENTS GAINED THE SKILLS THEY WILL NEED TO MEANINGFULLY PARTICIPATE IN OUR DEMOCRACY.

TARA KINI, BUENA VISTA HORACE MANN SCHOOL TEACHER

CIVIC MOTIVATION

Civic motivation is a student’s desire to actively participate in the political process and take action on issues they care about. This includes actual behaviors, like voting and volunteering.

83% of students agreed that voting is an effective way to make change
82% of students believed in the power of collective change

WE NEED YOUNG LEADERS TO TAKE ACTION TO MAKE A CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITY. WITH THE POWER OF THEIR VOICE AND ACTIONS, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

ADALBERTO TRUJILLO, STUDENT LEADERSHIP BOARD MEMBER

Join us at GenerationCitizen.org