

Pillar 2: Civic Skills

Civic Discourse Rules and Practice

<https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/setting-ground-rules-civil-discourse-and-difficult>

The United States Courts offer many resources, including guidelines for helping students practice civil discourse for opposing viewpoints.

Committee of 70

<https://seventy.org/>

The Committee of Seventy is a nonpartisan civic leadership organization that advances representative, ethical and effective government in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania through citizen engagement and public policy advocacy. Their “Draw the Lines” program (<https://drawthelinespa.org/>) is a redistricting contest for understanding gerrymandering.

Echoes and Reflections

<https://echoesandreflections.org/>

A collaboration of the Anti Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation, and the United States Holocaust Memorial and Museum, this curriculum provides resources and workshops to assist educators in teaching the complexities of Holocaust, genocide, and human rights.

Icivics

<https://www.icivics.org/>

Icivics exists to engage students in meaningful civic learning. The site provides teachers well written, inventive, and free resources to enhance their practice and inspire their classrooms in civic education.

Model United Nations Institute

<https://bestdelegate.com/what-is-model-united-nations/>

The Model United Nations enables students to gain real world skills, learn about global issues, and enhance their leadership. Model UN or MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students typically roleplay delegates to the United Nations and simulate UN committees.

National History Day

<https://www.nhd.org/affiliate/pennsylvania>

National History Day engages students in grades 6-12 in the process of discovery and interpretation of historical topics. Students produce dramatic performances, imaginative exhibits, multimedia documentaries, web sites, and papers based on research related to an annual theme. Students enter their projects in local and regional competitions and compete for the opportunity to advance to higher levels of competition.

National Model United States Congress

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

The National Model Congress assists students in connecting classroom learning to real world knowledge. Educational simulations of the legislative process provide unique experiences for students to interact on the issues facing our federal, state and local governments.

Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils

<https://www.pasc.net/>

The Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils offers year round opportunities for students and advisors to develop and apply leadership skills for self-improvement, and enhancement of their schools and their communities.

The Pennsylvania Bar Association

<https://www.pabar.org/site/>

The Pennsylvania Bar Association hosts events for students, including a program that gives students the opportunity to learn more about the US and PA Constitutions. The association offers educational resources and prepared videos for classrooms and hosts a Law Day that allows judges to visit classrooms and message the role of courts in democracy. The site includes lesson plans, e.g., "The First Amendment & Protection of Students' Rights."

Pennsylvania Bar Association Mock Trial Competition

<https://www.pabar.org/site/For-the-Public/Mock-Trial-Competition>

One of the largest in the nation, the Pennsylvania Bar Association /YLD Mock Trial Competition gives more than 300 high school student teams from across the state the opportunity to act as lawyers and witnesses in simulated civil and criminal trials before actual judges and panels of juries. Lawyers volunteer to assist students as team advisors, scorekeepers and regional coordinators. Each year, the winning team goes on to represent Pennsylvania in the national competition.

Project Peace

<http://www.pabar.org/public/education/projectpeace/projectpeacehome.asp> Project PEACE is a partnership of the Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General, the Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Pennsylvania Bar Foundation. Project Peace is peer-mediation, anti-bullying and youth court training program centering around the skills of non-violent conflict resolution and active civic engagement.

Youth Courts

<http://www.pabar.org/public/committees/childavo/YouthCourtsBackgroundInformation.pdf>

Youth courts are student operated disciplinary systems that use positive peer pressure to correct disruptive behavior. Youth courts can be structures within a school based system to keep at-risk youths in school and out of the formal juvenile or criminal justice system. The program provides opportunities for public speaking, problem solving, literacy skills and promoting citizenship and socialization of student body members.