

We the People: Project Citizen



LEFT: Project Citizen showcase presentation MIDDLE: Project Citizen portfolio, Mississippi RIGHT: Project Citizen portfolio

Project Citizen is administered by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education under the Education for Democracy Act passed by the United States Congress. The program is conducted in the United States in partnership with the National Conference of State Legislatures. The goals of the program are to help students learn how to monitor and influence public policy; to become competent and responsible participants in the political life of their communities and nation; and to develop a reasoned commitment to the fundamental values and principles of American constitutional democracy. Project Citizen is an instructional program for middle, secondary, and postsecondary students, youth organizations, and adult groups. Project Citizen is used in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as in more than 70 other countries. For more information, see www.civiced.org.

PROGRAM IMPACT ON STUDENT KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ATTITUDES

- Students in the program believe they can and do make a difference in their communities. They develop a commitment to active citizenship and governance.
STUDY CONDUCTED BY KENNETH W. TOLO, LYNDON B. JOHNSON SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS, AUSTIN, TEXAS
 - Participating Indiana adolescents increased their levels of civic knowledge and skills, in contrast to a matching control group.
STUDY CONDUCTED BY THOMAS S. VONTZ, KIM K. METCALF, AND JOHN J. PATRICK, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON
 - Students in grades 3–12 showed significant increases in civic skills. Teachers perceived that students were better able to discuss issues constructively, formulate position statements, and give effective presentations on public policy issues.
STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE RMC RESEARCH CORPORATION, DENVER, COLORADO
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- *“As a judge and practicing attorney, I have been involved in many programs, but none that even approached the excitement in civil participation of this program. It is practical experience in democracy and civil involvement.”*
JUDGE GREGORY J. DONAT, TIPPECANOE COUNTY COURT I, LAFAYETTE, INDIANA
 - *“Benefits extend beyond the classroom. Students get an opportunity to live out the precepts of democracy and representative government.”*
MICHAEL LUBELFELD, PRINCIPAL, ELM PLACE MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGHLAND PARK, ILLINOIS
 - *“I hope for our country’s sake that some of these students opt for a career in public service.”*
SENATOR JAMES M. JEFFORDS (IND. VERMONT)

For more information about Center for Civic Education research, contact Suzanne Soule, Director of Research and Evaluation, soule@civiced.org or 800-350-4223.

