

Lesson: Civic Actions Card Sort	Grade Level: 9-12
<p>Common Core State Standards Addressed:</p> <p>Writing Standards (Grades 9-10)</p> <p>1. <i>Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.</i></p> <p>Speaking and Listening Standards (Grades 9-10)</p> <p>1. <i>Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grades 9-10 topics, texts and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.</i></p>	
<p>Relevance and Rationale:</p> <p>This lesson will allow students to gain a knowledge and understanding of different types of civic action that are possible. Through collaboration and discussion, students will learn about the effectiveness and appropriateness of each civic action.</p>	<p>Reflection:</p> <p>Students will complete a reflection at the end of the lesson using the following prompts:</p> <p>a. What do you believe is the most effective and appropriate action? Choose one b. In order, what are your next steps? c. What resources will you need? d. What do you need from the teacher?</p>
<p>Activities:</p> <p><i>Step 1.</i> Students will complete a journal write that responds to the following question: Based on our study of _____, what action could you take to create change?</p> <p><i>Step 2.</i> Students will participate in a brief pair-share, discussing their journal response.</p> <p><i>Step 3.</i> Students will participate in a whole class discussion based on their journal response. The teacher will use a graphic organizer to chart the responses.</p> <p><i>Step 4.</i> Students will be divided into groups of three to five. They will receive 'Action Cards' that describe a civic action they can take to address an issue and an example.</p> <p><i>Step 5.</i> Teacher will direct students to sort the cards on spectrum using the following prompt: What do you believe is the most effective and appropriate action to address the issue?</p>	

Students will provide a value for each card. A value of “0” denotes an action that would be extremely ineffective and inappropriate and a value of “10” denotes an action that would be extremely effective and appropriate.

Step 6. The teacher will announce the name of a Civic Action (i.e. writing a letter to the newspaper). One student from each group will post their card to the spectrum created on the board. Next, the teacher will facilitate a discussion to allow students to share their results. This process will continue with the goal to discuss as many “Action Cards” as time permits.

Step 7. Following the discussion, students will complete a reflection that will allow them to extend their learning. The reflection will include the following prompts:

- a. What do you believe is the most effective and appropriate action? Choose one.*
- b. In order, what are your next steps?*
- c. What resources will you need?*
- d. What do you need from the teacher?*

Resources and Materials Needed:

1. Civic Action Cards
2. Reflection sheets

Spectrum:

Extremely Ineffective and Inappropriate

Extremely Effective and Appropriate

0 ←-----|-----→ 10

**SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE
SCHOOL OR LOCAL
NEWSPAPER**

**CREATE A TWITTER
CAMPAIGN**

**CREATE A PSA AND POST
ONLINE**

**CREATE AND DISTRIBUTE
A LEAFLET**

ORGANIZE A PROTEST

ORGANIZE A WALKOUT

ORGANIZE A BOYCOTT

CREATE A PETITION

**CONTACT AN ELECTED
OFFICIAL VIA EMAIL,
LETTER OR PHONE**

**ORGANIZE OR
PARTICIPATE IN A FLASH
MOB OR SILENT PROTEST**

**BEGIN A NEW CLUB ON
THIS CAMPUS**

**INITIATE A POLICY PROPOSAL
TO LOCAL POLICYMAKER TO
ADDRESS THE ISSUE**

**ORGANIZE A TOWN HALL
MEETING THAT INCLUDES A
VARIETY OF STAKEHOLDERS**

This is a traditional way to share your message with a large number of your peers. Letters are published in both school and local newspapers.

Example- Laura's letter about Global Warming in the September issue

Twitter is a social media platform that allows you to post messages that are less than 140 words. Messages can be re-tweeted to larger audiences. An account is needed to participate.

Example- a student tweets in support of President Obama's immigration reform

A Public Service Announcement (PSA) is a message that is designed to raise awareness or change public attitudes and behaviors toward a social issue.

Example- students create a PSA about the dangers of texting while driving

A free, printed flyer intended for distribution.

Example- The E-Waste Club flyer informs the community about the dangers of throwing batteries in the trashcan and contamination of landfills

A protest is a statement or action expressing disapproval of, or objection to something.

Example- students at UCLA protest tuition increases made by the UC Regents

A walkout is the act of leaving or being absent from a meeting or event, especially as an expression of protest.

Example- East LA Walkouts of 1968

During a boycott citizens stop using the goods or services of (a company, country, etc.) until changes are made.

Example- Montgomery bus boycott

A petition is a written document that many people sign to show that they want a person or organization to do or change something.

Example- Petition to revoke citizenship of Justin Bieber

Government officials are elected by the people and are expected to listen to the ideas and concerns of all citizens.

Example- contact the mayor of your city to discuss the need for a crosswalk near your school

Flash mobs or silent protests are methods that can be used to deliver a message in a novel and possibly non-disruptive manner.

Example- students vow to take a form of silence to call attention to the silencing effect of anti-LGBT bullying and harassment in schools

A club is an on campus organization where like-minded students regularly meeting to discuss ideas, plan fundraisers and conduct community service projects.

Example- The Human Rights Watch Student Task Force is created to advocate for children's rights

A policy is a course or principle of action adopted or proposed by a government, party, business, or individual.

Example- A group of students proposes a policy to the local city council to install a crosswalk in front of school

Town hall meetings are community events in which people (e.g. youth, experts, community resource people, and/or public officials) present information on a particular problem and then highlight potential solutions.

Example- A group of students organizes a 'Town Hall Meeting' to discuss ways that the community can combat the proliferation of drugs in the community

**Civic Actions Card Sort
California Democracy School
Civic Learning Initiative**

Opening Question:

Based on our study of _____, what action could you take to create change?

Reflection Questions:

After participating in the Civic Actions Card Sort, what do you believe is the most effective and appropriate action to address your issue? Explain why.

What will be your next steps to take action?

What resources will you need? What do you need from the teacher?