

October 7, 2014

Current Events and
Controversial Topics in the
Classroom

Dr. Diana Hess

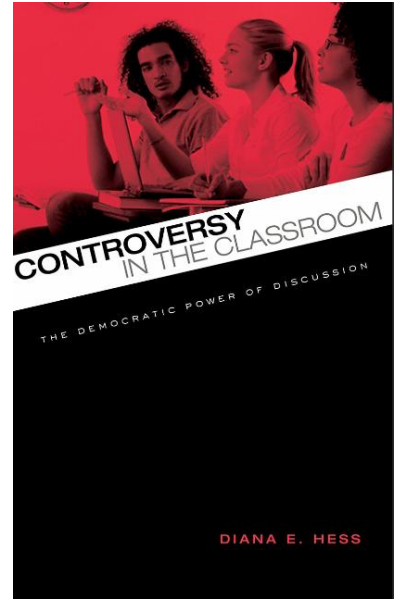
University of Wisconsin-
Madison
Senior VP, Spencer
Foundation

Structured Academic Controversy (SAC)

**Discussion as a tool AND
outcome itself**

Conduct an ideological sort

**Have students decipher
between a CLAIM and
WARRANT**



Claim: Statement of a Point
View (POV)

Warrant: POV w/evidence

**Resources to introduce controversial topics and SAC to
your classroom:**

Deliberating.org: Information and lessons on hot
topics (cyberbullying, domestic violence, etc.)

Procon.org: Pros and Cons of controversial topics

Landmarkcases.org: Lessons and information on
landmark cases of the U.S. Supreme Court

November 15, 2014

Initiative Orientation

Topics Covered:

- Overview of the Six Proven Practices
- Controversy in the Classroom

Presentation of student projects from Rio Americano and Carver High Schools

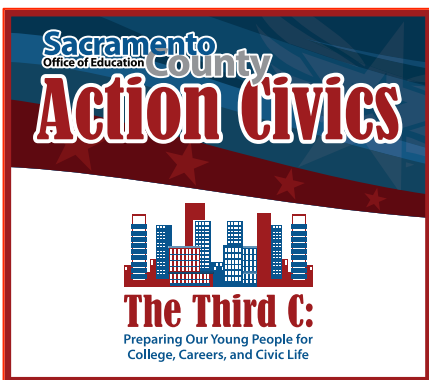
Today's Outcomes...

- *Get acquainted with the Action Civics Initiative and Framework*
- *Learn the core elements of the Six Proven Practices*
- *Identify current site practices that support the Six Proven Practices*
- *Develop next steps to strengthen or enhance these practices*



Activities:

- Icebreaker: Pictures that reflect Action Civics
- Tweet all about it: Producing a Tweet for one of the Proven Practices
- Team Reflection: Where are YOU with the Six Proven Practices?



December 13, 2014

Fostering a Student Centered Focus

Topics Covered:

- Supports and Opportunities of Youth Development
- Adulthood
- Hart's Ladder
- Civic Skills
- Socratic Seminar

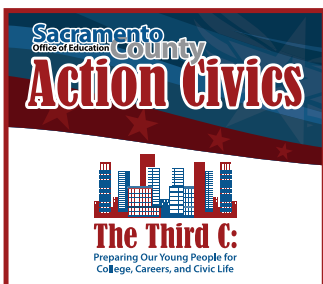
Today's Outcomes...

- *Examine your beliefs around students;*
- *Learn strategies to support student-centered learning; and*
- *Develop tangible steps to more intentionally create a student-centered environment in your classroom (through the 6 Proven Practices).*

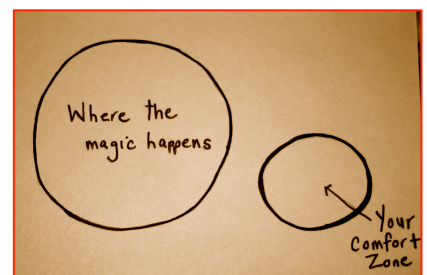


Activities:

- Setting group agreements
- Icebreaker: Four Corners
- Debrief of Youth Development 101 video
- Socratic seminar about Adulthood article
- Hart's Ladder: Build the ladder and scenarios
- Envisioning activity: Identifying civic skills and necessary supports
- Team Reflection: Six Proven Practices



And in knowing
that you know
nothing, that
makes you the
smartest of all.
- Socrates



February 28, 2015

The Spectrum of Student Engagement

Topics Covered:

- Smarter Balanced Assessments
- Community Service
- Simulations
- Project Based Learning
- Service Learning

Activities:

- Video: I choose 'C'
- Walk around Activity: Scenarios
- Essential Elements of Project Based Learning Article/ Assess Project Citizen Boards
- Buck Institute Simulation "Can we believe this?"
- Hart's Ladder: Build the ladder and scenarios
- Service Learning and Peer Court
- Round Table Discussions

Today's Outcomes...

- **Become familiar with the elements of Community Service, Project Based Learning, and Service Learning**
- **Begin to identify the CIVICS SKILLS that students need to succeed in college, career, and life**

