

New Civic Engagement Opportunity for AP with WE Service Classrooms: Voter Registration Drive

Overview

AP[®] with WE Service encourages civic engagement by building students' understanding of their role in solving both local and global problems. Today, AP with WE Service students are expressing heightened interest in civic action so we are offering two potential service learning project opportunities.

Leveraging the AP with WE Service for All module, students can now complete service learning projects related to Voter Registration and Census Participation. The two examples below are optional and intended to be integrated within your [AP with WE Service for All Module](#).

VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT EXAMPLE

One exciting possibility for teachers leveraging our AP with WE Service for All module is to complete a service learning project that explores political participation. In collaboration with DoSomething.org, a nonpartisan nonprofit that combines online organizing with offline events, interested students and teachers can run a voter registration drive in their community following the processes outlined in this project. This optional civics project is designed to meet the local AP with WE Service project requirement and enables students to participate in a project that will engage students through the real-world application of their coursework.

You should:

- Use the AP with WE Service for All module to explore the topic and support students in carrying out their service learning project. Find the appropriate enduring understanding within your specific course to make connections to the project below.
- Ensure that the project complies with local school/district guidelines and policies.
- Consider the length of the course (half year versus full year) when determining the complexity of the project.
- Ensure that the project is appropriate for:
 - Age and maturity of the student.
 - The availability of resources.
- Provide feedback to students about conceptual understanding and skill development.

SUGGESTED TIMING

The project should be completed over the course of several weeks, as directed by the DoSomething.org [START Leadership Program Guide](#). The project may be completed before or after the AP[®] Exam or integrated throughout the course. In order for students to earn the AP with WE Service recognition, students will need to complete their service learning project and be scored in the digital portfolio by June 30, 2020.

Selecting Students for Civic Engagement Project

Teachers should allow only one student group to run a START program per school to ensure maximum success for registering eligible students to vote.

PROJECT

Part 1 Signing Up for the Project

- Review the [START Leadership Program Guide](#) to understand the objectives of the program and the essential setup steps for your students. The Guide will provide everything students need to know:
 - Advice on how students can start a voter registration drive.
 - How students can talk to others about registering to vote.
 - What is on the voter registration form and how to fill it out.
 - Reporting on voter registrations and confirming completed forms are correct.
- Provide students with the [START Leadership Program Guide](#). Allow students to review the overview provided by DoSomething.org on pages 1–6. As a class, review the expectations of engaging in this project by discussing “Running Your Voter Registration Drive” on pages 7–11.
- Determine which group of students would like to participate in this project, and have them sign up through dosomething.org/startteacher5.

Before Moving On

This project should involve student participation in a nonpartisan service-learning opportunity. Students who choose to lead a voter registration should be prepared to develop strategies to engage citizens in their local community. Confirm your students have enrolled in the START program so that they have an accurate roadmap for running a voter registration drive.

Part 2 Completing the Project

- Refer to Part 2 of the AP with WE Service for All Module as you work on completing the service learning project.
- Coach your students through the establishment of a voter registration drive team.
 - Use the **11 steps** included in “Running Your Voter Registration Drive” to determine how the team should be structured and how to strategize a process for implementing the drive.
 - ◆ Confirm your students have built a team with a clear structure before engaging in the registration drive.
 - ◆ Alert your administration to the project your students have undertaken; school administration can provide clear guidelines of what students can and cannot do as it relates to political participation on a school’s campus.

- Provide students with support as they execute the 11 steps outlined by [DoSomething.org](https://dosomething.org), and confirm communication is appropriate and aligned with local school policies throughout the duration of the project.
 - Offer students an opportunity to practice completing voter registrations with your guidance.
 - Review student promotional material to confirm it is nonpartisan and in alignment with local/district guidelines.
 - Confirm your students have sent completed forms to the Board of Elections as a concluding step in the project.

Before Moving On

Teachers should remind students that stances on issues should remain nonpartisan. The voter registration drive can tell people WHY they should vote but not WHO they should vote for. Teachers should confirm that all communication to/from students follows the simple rule that no candidates or parties should play any role in talking about voting. Finally, all forms must be returned to the Board of Elections for the registration drive to be complete.

Part 3 Debrief of the Project

- Proceed to Part 4 of your AP with WE Service for All module. Celebrate the work the students accomplished by having students upload pictures from their voter registration drives into the Google Form provided by [DoSomething.org](https://dosomething.org) so that student efforts can be highlighted along with other schools across the country.
- Provide students with the opportunity to share/communicate findings from having run a voter registration drive (e.g., presentation, speech, multimedia, podcast).

New Civic Engagement Opportunity for AP with WE Service Classrooms: Census Participation

Overview

AP[®] with WE Service encourages civic engagement by building students' understanding of their role in solving both local and global problems. Today, AP with WE Service students are expressing heightened interest in civic action so we are offering two potential service learning project opportunities.

Leveraging the AP with WE Service for All module, students can now complete service learning projects related to Voter Registration and Census Participation. The example below is optional and intended to be integrated within your [AP with WE Service for All Module](#).

CENSUS PARTICIPATION CAMPAIGN SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT EXAMPLE

In collaboration with the U.S. Census Bureau, the AP Program has created a project that will allow interested students to participate in creating a census participation campaign in their communities. This optional, civics project is designed to meet the local AP with WE Service project requirement and engage students through the real-world application of their coursework.

You should:

- Use the AP with WE Service for All module to explore the topic and support students in carrying out their service learning project. Find the appropriate enduring understanding within your specific course to make connections to the project below.
- Ensure that the project complies with local school/district guidelines and policies.
- Consider the length of the course (half year versus full year) when determining the complexity of the project.
- Ensure that the project is appropriate for:
 - Age and maturity of the student.
 - The availability of resources.
- Provide feedback to students about conceptual understanding and skill development.

SUGGESTED TIMING

The project should be completed over the course of several weeks, as directed by the DoSomething.org [START Leadership Program Guide](#). The project may be completed before or after the AP[®] Exam or integrated throughout the course. In order for students to earn the AP with WE Service recognition, students will need to complete their service learning project and be scored in the digital portfolio by June 30, 2020.

PROJECT

Part 1 Determining the Need for the 2020 Census in Your Community

- Provide students with the opportunity to investigate the major challenges facing their community in 2020 and the significance of the 2020 Census using [The Opportunity Atlas Activity](#) provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. This activity, along with the accompanying worksheet, will allow students to analyze, compare, and interpret key demographic data in a specific U.S. zip code to determine social outcomes for individuals in the corresponding census tract. After reviewing the demographic data in small groups or independently (per the activity instructions), students in the class should share out:
 - Key factors impacting social mobility in the selected neighborhood.
 - How data access tools—such as *The Opportunity Atlas*—can assist in gathering information to start a citizen action campaign.

Before Moving On

This project should involve student participation in a nonpartisan service-learning opportunity. Students who choose to further engage in a census registration project should be prepared to develop strategies to engage citizens in their local communities.

Activity Variation

If technology is unavailable to students, you may do this as a class with a projector or interactive whiteboard, selecting specific cities or towns that apply to your students. Additionally, you could print out the relevant maps, tables and graphs for students to view in class.

Part 2 Designing and Implementing a Census Participation Campaign

- Refer to Part 2 of the AP with WE Service for All Module as you work on completing the service learning project.
- Coach students in the design of a census participation campaign to increase the awareness of the 2020 Census. Refer to Part 2 of your AP with WE Service module to support your students in developing their action plan.
 - Share the U.S. Census Bureau [Student Take-Home Flyer](#).
 - Provide guidance from the U.S. Census Bureau [2020 Census Engagement Toolkit for Students](#) on creating a social media civic campaign to raise awareness for the 2020 Census.
 - ◆ Confirm students have built a team with a clear structure before engaging in the census participation campaign.
 - ◆ Confirm students understand the significant facts of the 2020 Census.
 - ◆ Align the guidance from the U.S. Census Bureau on social media campaigns with the rules/restrictions that exist in your local community.

- Provide students with support as they build a local campaign for the 2020 Census, and confirm communication is appropriate and aligned with local school policies throughout the duration of the project.

Before Moving On

Teachers should remind students that stances on candidates and the impending election should remain nonpartisan. The census is mandated in the Constitution under Article 1, Section 2.

Part 3 Debrief of the Project

- Proceed to Part 4 of your AP with WE Service for All module. Celebrate the work the students accomplished by encouraging an upload of pictures from the census participation campaign through local and school media.
- Provide students with the opportunity to share/communicate findings from leading a census participation campaign (e.g., presentation, speech, multimedia, podcast).

Before Moving On

Under our Constitution, effective governing is achieved through citizen participation. Students should be able to describe the many ways that increased participation in the 2020 Census can influence policymakers and impact the decisions that will affect their daily lives. Connections between this project and **Unit 5: Political Participation** of the AP U.S. Government & Politics course framework should be evident if students made the appropriate connections throughout the duration of the census participation campaign.