



PRESIDENTS' DAY

Freedom's Feast PRESIDENTS' DAY

On-line Ceremonies to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday Celebrations.

★ WE THE PEOPLE - CIVIC ENGAGEMENT ★

A Freedom's Feast Guide to Raising Politically Engaged Citizens

Presidents' Day is a great time to learn about civic engagement. Civics highlights on the the roles citizens play in society. Civic engagement is any individual and collective activity that focuses on issues of public concern. Civic engagement comes in many forms: individual volunteerism, community problem solving, service learning, membership in an association, fundraising, direct advocacy, and voting.

Would you like to be more involved at home or in your local community? Like [engaged children](#) have in the past, you too can express your passion for a better world by contacting political officials on a matter important to you, promoting a cause you believe in, volunteering for an organization, petitioning or protesting on an issue you care about.

To learn further about how you can become more *engaged*, visit the following Freedom's Feast suggested resources:

1. The Center for Civic Education

Civics is no longer taught in most of our schools. Since 1969, the Center for Civic Education has been working to help all 50 states raise the standard and presence of civic learning for all of our children in all of our schools. The site is full of excellent resources to explore.

2. The Intercollegiate Studies Institute

Civics is not often taught in our colleges either. Since 1953, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute has been working to improve civic literacy on our college campuses. ISI suggests: Watch less TV. Read more and have conversations about history and current events. Visit their site to learn more and test your civics literacy!

3. CIRCLE - The Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement Run by Tufts University, CIRCLE conducts research on the civic and political engagement of young Americans. The site offers a wealth of information, including reports on civics-related research topics, instructive graphs, and quick facts. Check out the latest statistics on youth voting.

4. Civic Voices

Civic Voices is a joint effort of two international civics projects--Civics Mosaics and the Democracy Memory Bank, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. The site provides a virtual classroom for comparative civics and provides an international forum for students worldwide to voice their opinions on citizenship.

5. We The People

To learn more about American history, culture, and find great resources on democratic principles and the benefits of civic engagement, at We The People, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

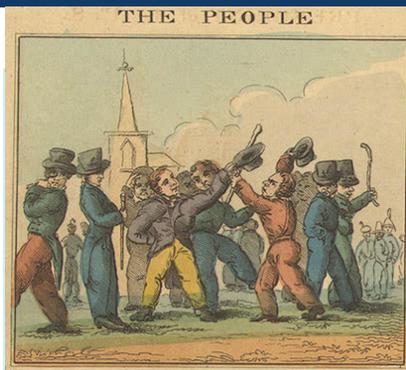


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civics: noun \ 'si-'vicks \ a: a social science dealing with the rights and duties of citizens. b: OBLIGATIONS; PRIVILEGES; RESPONSIBILITIES; VOLUNTEERISM.

Civic engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

THOMAS EHRLICH, AUTHOR

TEST YOUR CIVIC LITERACY

In 2007, only 54% of a significant sample of graduating college seniors passed a basic multi-choice civics exam. A random sample of adults did worse. Seventy-one percent failed an easier test with an average score of 49%. Our elected officials had an even lower score! Just how knowledgeable are you when it comes to civic literacy? **Take the test** and see how well you do.