

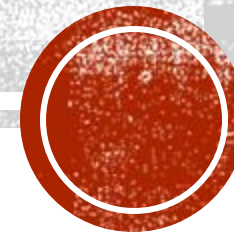


An Intervention into New Jersey Middle School Civics Education

Presented by Sara Fajardo

11 December 2024

Policy Tracks: Politics and Government, Work





RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Institute for Women's Leadership

The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to *practice leadership through action*.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women's Leadership's website at <http://iwl.rutgers.edu>.



GOAL STATEMENT

The Purpose of my Social Action Project is to address the lack of education given to middle school students regarding the importance of civic engagement and political participation, especially through voting.

Through partnership with the Eagleton Institute of Politics' Center for Youth Political Participation, I will instruct students from four Maplewood middle school classes about the significance of civic engagement and youth political participation.

The learning toolkits I utilized during my presentation, will also aid educators in implementing youth civic engagement initiatives in their classrooms on a regular basis.



WHY IS THIS INTERVENTION NEEDED?



Only 22% of U.S. Eighth Graders passed the National Assessment of Education Progress, a nationwide civics test.



If students cannot even understand the basic principles of civic education, how will they have the tools to participate in American democracy?



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Eagleton Institute of Politics

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RU Ready

A civic education initiative providing high school and middle school students with the motivation and the civic, political, and expressive tools they need to address public problems in their community.

Interested in implementing the RU Ready Civics Fair for middle school or high school learners? Visit [RU Ready in the Classroom](#)






SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

USING THE CYPP'S LEARNING MODULE "THE NEWSBOYS STRIKE OF 1899" STUDENTS ANSWERED THE QUESTION, "HOW DO YOUNG PEOPLE ORGANIZE TO ADVOCATE FOR THEMSELVES?"



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The Newsboys Strike of 1899 vs. Newsies (1992)

The largest child-led strike in history

Presentation prepared by Katharine Little, RU Ready Graduate Assistant



IMPACT

Post-Lesson Evaluation

Name (optional): _____

Instructions: Answer the following questions based on what you've learned from today's lesson from the Rutgers' Center for Youth Political Participation

1. What is civic engagement, and why is it important?

2. What are some of the challenges that the newsboys faced?

■ “At Democracy Prep, a NYC Charter School dedicated to increasing youth civic engagement, graduates vote at 6% higher rates”

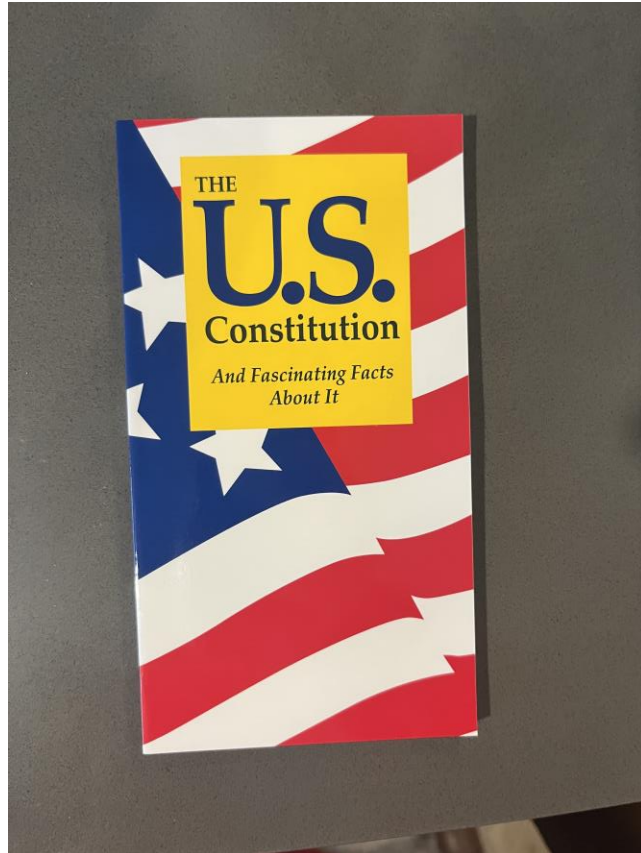
- Gill, et. al., 2019



TIMELINE



BUDGET





Importance of
Self-Care in
activist work

Importance of
longevity in
activist work

Learning to
expect the
unexpected



**EXPRESSING MYSELF AS A
FEMINIST LEADER**

MANY, MANY THANKS TO...

Karla Jackson-Brewer

Sasha Taner

Jessica Ronan Frisch and everyone at the Center for Youth Political Participation

Raymund Mantes, Christopher Preston and everyone at Maplewood Middle School

IWL cohort, Class of 2025



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