

POWER CIVICS® TOOLKIT



HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

CONTENTS

- **POWER CIVICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS- OVERVIEW**
Including specified teaching materials, reading assignments, and recommended sequencing of content with problem solving project
- **POWER CIVICS - TEACHING OBJECTIVES**
- **TEACHING POWER CIVICS - A VIDEO TUTORIAL**
(available online at: thecitizenscampaign.org)
- ***CITIZEN POWER, A CITIZEN LEADERSHIP MANUAL***
- Power Civics Text
- **THE “NO-BLAME” PROBLEM SOLVING PROJECT GUIDE**
- **10 FIVE MINUTE VIDEO CLASSES** with downloadable notes
(available online at: thecitizenscampaign.org)
- **10 SAMPLE LESSON PLANS**
- **HELP DESK – EXPERT SUPPORT, ADVICE & RESOURCES**
for problem solving project and general class instruction
- **EVALUATION MATERIALS**

WELCOME



Welcome to the Power Civics© Toolkit!

Thank you for your interest in teaching students how to become “citizen leaders” who are aware that they have new powers that go beyond voting and protesting, where they can play a powerful new role as “public citizens” in a 21st century democracy.

This Toolkit includes the materials you need to become effective teachers of Power Civics. You are also invited to go online to thecitizenscampaign.org for Power Civics updates and new additions to our offerings.

We hope you find this Toolkit useful as you empower your students with the leadership skills they need to make their futures better. Yes – they face serious problems, but they now have the power to offer serious solutions.

Welcome aboard!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
■ POWER CIVICS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - OVERVIEW including specified teaching materials, reading assignments, and recommended sequencing of content with problem solving project	2
■ POWER CIVICS – TEACHING OBJECTIVES	8
■ TEACHING POWER CIVICS - A VIDEO TUTORIAL (available online at thecitizenscampaign.org)	11
■ CITIZEN POWER, A CITIZEN LEADERSHIP MANUAL, Introducing the Art of No-Blame Problem Solving (Published by Rutgers University Press)	12
■ THE PROJECT GUIDE for No-Blame Problem Solving	13
■ 10 FIVE MINUTE VIDEO CLASSES with downloadable notes (available online at thecitizenscampaign.org)	25
■ 10 SAMPLE LESSON PLANS	26
■ HELP DESK – Expert Support, Advice & Resources for problem solving projects and general class instruction	37
■ EVALUATION MATERIALS	38

AN OVERVIEW OF *POWER CIVICS*® FOR HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR 21ST CENTURY CITIZEN LEADERSHIP

INTRODUCTION New citizen rights enacted at the onset of the 21st century, coupled with contemporaneous tech advances, give citizens the power to participate in their city governments' problem solving and decision making processes. Teaching students where and how they can bring their solutions to bear and how they can share their solutions with other cities across the country, enhances civic engagement and affords a more powerful, and therefore more compelling approach to civics education.

DEFINITION *Power Civics*® for High Schools is a unique tool for teaching citizen leadership skills to high school juniors and seniors. It has been designed for inclusion in American History/Social Studies courses, but can be used across many disciplines.

PURPOSE *Power Civics*® teaches students “No-Blame” problem solving, fostering mutual respect and civility, and giving them the opportunity to move beyond the role of civic spectator to become “citizen leaders” capable of leaving their city and our Country better than they found them.

KEY FACTORS OF *POWER CIVICS*®:

- 1) *Power Civics*® is based on the core democratic value of service, which dates back to Athenian times when citizens who reached the age of maturity gathered in the city square and pledged to leave their community better than they found it – an important lesson for soon to be 18-year old graduates.
- 2) Unlike traditional civics education, *Power Civics*® offers “applied civics” education, which teaches citizen leadership “beyond the ballot.”
- 3) *Power Civics*® teaches students about new 21st century laws and technology programs that give them the ability to participate in the decision-making of their city government and beyond.
- 4) *Power Civics*® training includes a hands-on local government problem solving project, which can be implemented within the classroom, affording students a concrete opportunity to practice the “No-Blame” approach – useful preparation for becoming constructive civic leaders upon graduation.

- 5) *Power Civics*© is non-ideological. Students' solutions must be: (a) "success based," i.e., based on policies that have been proven to work in similar communities; (b) "cost effective," i.e., budget neutral and preferably cost saving; and (c) beneficial to the community as a whole, i.e., not special interests.
- 6) *Power Civics*© is compact and can be taught in 10 class hours, inclusive of the hands-on problem solving project, making it simple to incorporate in most high school American History/Social Studies courses.
- 7) *Power Civics*© incorporates a broad array of skills training including: critical thinking, research, writing, public speaking, evaluation of information, civil discourse, media literacy, and substantive knowledge in subjects such as law and economics.
- 8) *Power Civics*© teaches students:
 - How to use technology to find proven solutions
 - How to employ media literacy in the search for solutions
 - How to obtain information about current government policies
 - How to use a No-Blame approach to problem solving
 - How to find cost effective, evidence-based solutions
 - How to use their citizen rights to advance solutions at government meetings
 - How to maintain a respectful, ongoing pursuit of progress toward the adoption of solutions
- 9) *Power Civics*© comes complete with a teachers' Toolkit, including among its many resources a teacher training video tutorial; the *Power Civics* text: "*Citizen Power, A Citizen Leadership Manual*" and 10-five minute video classes with downloadable notes, easily accessible online.