



## GLOSSARY

**Achievement Levels** – Indicators of how well the student portfolios and/or hearings accomplished the goals and guidelines of the Project Citizen program. The levels are: Superior, Exceptional, Outstanding, and Honorable Mention. Portfolios being showcased but not evaluated are placed in a Special Recognition category.

**Action Plan** – The last section of the portfolio display and documentation binder. This section should provide steps the students might take to get their proposed policy accepted and implemented by government.

**Alternative Policies** – The second section of the portfolio display and documentation binder. This section should provide a detailed explanation and evaluation of two or three alternative public policy proposals from various groups or individuals relating to the issue that the students chose in section one.

**Awareness Session** – Training for teachers to understand the Project Citizen program and how to implement it in their classrooms. An awareness session is often arranged by the State or District Coordinator and can last from one to three hours.

**Center for Civic Education** – The Center for Civic Education (Center) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to fostering the development of informed, responsible participation in civic life by citizens committed to values and principles fundamental to American constitutional democracy.

**Civic Mission of Schools** – The Campaign for the Civic Mission Schools was created to increase the quality and quantity of civic learning in our schools, grades K-12. The Campaign works to bring about changes in state, local, and national policy that promote civic learning and implement the recommendations in the Civic Mission of Schools report.

**CIVITAS** – A worldwide nongovernmental organization for civic education; aims to strengthen effective education for informed and responsible citizenship in new and emerging democracies around the world. CIVITAS International is composed of individuals, nongovernmental associations, and governmental institutions from many countries as well as international organizations.

**Congressional Conference on Civic Education** – Conference of key education policymakers from all 50 states and the District of Columbia; members of the judiciary, state legislators, and representatives of professional and civic organizations are selected as part of a state delegation to share strategies for strengthening civic education at the state and local levels. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the conference is a project of the Alliance for Representative Democracy, a joint venture of The Center on



Congress at Indiana University, the Center for Civic Education, and The National Conference of State Legislatures.

**District Coordinator** – A volunteer position with the Center for Civic Education. The District Coordinator works directly with the State Coordinator to enhance and grow the We the People programs within the state.

**Documentation Binder** – That part of the portfolio display in which students document their research, including a selection of material that best supports the information placed on the portfolio display board.

**Evaluators** – Community members who review student portfolios and/or hearings and assign achievement levels.

**Facilitators** – Individuals who are often volunteers to help with showcases, hearings etc.

**Hearing** – Along with the portfolio display and documentation binder, this is the culminating activity of Project Citizen. It consists of four groups (one for each section of the portfolio) making four-minute presentations to a group of evaluators. The group then responds to follow-up questions posed by the evaluators.

**Institute** – A week-long training for teachers on how to implement the We the People programs in their classes. The Project Citizen program has five regional institutes across the country every year, while the We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution program offers both national and state-level institutes

**National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL)** – A bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths, and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance, and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues. NCSL serves as a partner with the Center on the Project Citizen program and on the Civic Mission of Schools Campaign.

**Portfolio Display Board** – This, along with the hearing, is the culminating activity of the Project Citizen program. A display consisting of four sections explaining the problem, examining alternative policies, proposing a public policy, and developing an action plan.

**Problem** – The nature of the issue that the students chose to research and why they chose it; the first section of the portfolio display and the hearing.

**Project Citizen** – A curricular program for middle-grade students that promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government. The program helps young people learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they

# PROJECT Citizen

develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.

**Public Policy** – An agreed upon way for government to fulfill its responsibilities to protect the rights of individuals and promote the general welfare by solving problems.

**Showcase (District, State, National)** – The culminating event in which the portfolio display boards and documentation binders are evaluated for various classes.

**Student Ambassadors** – A group made up of eight students from one class per region that attends the Project Citizen National Showcase to present their projects and meet with attendees at the annual meeting for NCSL.

**Timers** – Volunteers who keep track of time during simulated legislative hearings at **Project Citizen** showcases.

**We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution** – A Center program that enhances students' understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy while they discover the contemporary relevance of the Constitution and Bill of Rights. The culminating activity is a simulated congressional hearing in which students "testify" before a panel of judges. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles and have opportunities to evaluate, take, and defend positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues.

[www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org) – The Center for Civic Education's website.

**Youth Organizations** – Organizations with an educational aspect that can use Project Citizen with their members, i.e., 4-H, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc.