



Announcing . . .



**Active Citizenship:**

## **How Can Active Citizenship Demonstrate & Strengthen Democracy?**

A **Webinar Series** sponsored by the Virginia Civics Commission in collaboration with the VDOE

**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

**3:30-5 pm**

***Controversial Issues, Civil Discourse with Dr. Diana Hess (University of Wisconsin-Madison)***

Webinar Description: Many teachers understand the important role they play in teaching their students how to talk about controversial political issues in a way that is high quality and civil. Public problems require deliberation among the “we” to determine the best solutions. Giving time for students to engage controversial issues that are authentic, contemporary, and open begins to equip them for the hard work of responsible, informed citizenship in the classroom, the school, and the community.

Register for this session at: [https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_MENSTWehSAG8I9boEUPMsg](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MENSTWehSAG8I9boEUPMsg)

**Thursday, October 1, 2020**

**3:30 – 5 pm**

***Build a stronger democracy by teaching students how to ask their own questions with Luz Santana & Dan Rothstein (The Right Question Institute)***

Webinar Description: Historians and other professionals rely on their ability to ask questions to generate new discoveries, original analysis, & ensure accountability. The ability to ask one’s own questions is a key skill to thrive in a democracy and is a foundational learning skill. The right and ability to pose questions often lies with those who hold power, more authority or more knowledge. In our vision, the teaching of the skill of question formulation helps students to practice the hard intellectual labor of producing, improving, and strategizing on the use of one’s own questions, thereby creating a new starting point for a stronger and healthier democracy.

Register for this session at: [Build a Stronger Democracy by Teaching Students How to Ask Their Questions](#)

**Thursday, October 15**

**3:30 – 5 pm**

***A Republic if You can Keep It with Supreme Court Justice William Mimms, Senator David Marsden, Delegate Roxann Robinson, Delegate Schuyler Van Valkenburg***

Webinar Description: In a government of checked and balanced power, how can “We the People” make our voices heard? Active citizens exercise their First Amendment rights as they engage government at the local, Virginia and national levels. From the perspective of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, the Virginia General Assembly and a classroom in a suburban high school, a Supreme Court justice, two members of the House of Delegates, a Virginia Senator and a government teacher each promote active citizenship. The future of our democracy requires nothing less.

Register for this session at: [A Republic, If You Can Keep It](#)

**There’s more! Keep going . . .**

**Thursday, October 29**

**4 – 5:30 pm**

***We the People: The Crucible of the Constitution with James Madison of Colonial Williamsburg***

Webinar Description: Discuss the issues and debates surrounding Virginia’s ratification of the U.S. Constitution with James Madison. What were the opposing viewpoints on issues such as factions, race, and voter representation for the franchised and disenfranchised? Participate in a panel discussion on how these enduring controversies create opportunities to explore current issue and design opportunities for debate in the classroom.

**Register for this session at:** [We the People: The Crucible of the Constitution](#)

**Thursday, November 12**

**3:30 – 5 pm**

***Voters Vote Pundits Prognosticate with Dr. Bob Holsworth (DecideSmart) & Dr. Quentin Kidd (CNU)***

Webinar Description: And the people have made their voices heard. But what exactly are they saying? Two of Virginia’s most respected political commentators tackle the 2020 election results and their impact on Virginia races in 2021 and beyond.

**Register for this session at:** [Voters Vote, Pundits Prognosticate: Tackling 2020 election results and their impact on Virginia races in 2021 and beyond.](#)

**Thursday, November 19**

**3:30 – 5 pm**

***Talking Turkey: Civil Discourse in Age of Covid-19 and Looking at Election Results Visually with Meg Heubeck (YLI) & David Poole (VPAP)***

Webinar Description: **Heubeck** – Build upon skills learned in previous sessions as well as the resources of the Youth Leadership Initiative to improve students’ abilities to discuss controversial topics in the classroom with civility and maturity. Learn to use the First Freedom Wall to share political points of view in a way that promotes discourse, debate, and compromise. Learn about the YLI Anytime Mock Election feature to produce activities that encourage critical debate and compromise. Learn about activities from YLI’s Democracy Corps program to strategize ways to bring local government into the civics classroom and increase discussion of political issues. **Poole** – You know the election results! You may have even heard about some of the data related to it. Now “see” the story behind those results with resources from the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP). Learn about the many visual representations related to not only the election but also civic education illustrating the patterns and trends in the elections and state government. Help your students understand the story behind this public data by developing their social studies skills using these resources.

**Register for this session at:** [Talking Turkey: Civil Discourse in Age of Covid-19 and Election Results](#)

This webinar series is offered at no cost to educators in Virginia. Advance registration is required for each individual webinar. Attendees will be awarded a certificate of attendance after each webinar which can be used for recertification.

For more information about this series and to register for individual webinars, go to the *VDOE Community of Learners Professional Development calendar* at <http://www.doe.virginia.gov/instruction/history/index.shtml>

**Questions?** Contact Alice Reilly, Civics Commission at [alvreilly@comcast.net](mailto:alvreilly@comcast.net) or Brandi McCracken at [brandi.mccracken@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:brandi.mccracken@doe.virginia.gov)

