

# Civic Bites for High School Teachers

Shortcuts for Teaching Civic and Voter Engagement

A service-learning project of  
Be A Voter Outreach and Education  
[www.beavoter.info](http://www.beavoter.info)

## What is Civic Bites?



With all the demands you face, it's a challenge to find enough time to cover civics education. That's where these easy-to-use activities come in. No matter what you teach, these simple Civic Bites can help you nurture student civic engagement. These educational materials are non-partisan, non-profit, research-based, issue-oriented, and free of charge. They are in the public domain, therefore you may share them freely with colleagues and friends.

Each of these strategies can be used alone or in combination with others. You can tailor them to your class and to your students' interests. "Civics" is a broad category and these initial strategies focus on voter engagement. The goal is to help soon-to-be voters understand how to approach the voting maze and demonstrate how voting actually relates to their lives. Share this information with your colleagues and help cultivate the next generation of voters!

# Civic Bites create awareness of the importance of community involvement



Post free resources from the [Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life](#) in your classroom. Start a discussion.

Post a sign about how one [registers to vote in your state](#). Encourage students to share this information with family and friends so everyone can register when they become eligible.

Create a positive link in students' minds between turning 18 years old and voting. Celebrate this milestone birthday by providing voter [registration information](#).

Ask students to read the article on [What Makes a Good Citizen](#) by the Pew Research Organization. Discuss in class or have students write a one-page essay on their reactions to the article.

## Civic Bites is educational, non-partisan, research-based, and issue-oriented



Download the free [Voter Ambassadors Plan](#). Ask students to identify one of the many ways to get involved in community service and to spread the word to friends about the importance of voting.

Choose a ready-made lesson from [iCivics](#). Review the curriculum units available and select the one that best meets your needs.

Find online civic assessments, lessons, and publications from the [Stanford History Education Group](#). These free resources help students learn to evaluate online content.

Students may research the patterns of youth voting using the [Census Bureau](#), [Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement](#), and your [state's elections office](#).

## Civic Bites supplement critical thinking, research, and decision-making skills



Download and share the free [E-Z Voter Checklist](#) with students. Even if your students may not be eligible yet to vote, they can still start learning about the process. The [E-Z Voter Checklist](#) guides students through the key steps necessary to become an informed voter when their time comes.

Have students take the [What Do You Know About the U.S. Government?](#) quiz from the non-partisan Pew Research Center.

Have students learn about how the information collected in the [2020 Census](#) will be used. There's free help available from the resources at the [Statistics In Schools](#) component of the Census Bureau.



## Civic Bites give students first-hand experience

National Voter Registration Day takes place annually in late September. Find free materials and guides here. Students can discuss, promote, and hold a voter registration drive on this occasion.

Inform students that when they are at least 16 years old they are eligible to become poll workers. In many states you get paid to be a poll worker.

Inform students that when they are at least 18 years old they may be eligible to be a certified voter registrar and help others register to vote. Check the rules in your state.



## Check the resources below for more information

[Free Voter Registration Tool Kit](#)

[Guide to Voter Registration Drives in All 50 States](#)

[Tips for Outreach for Voter Registration Drives](#)

[Inventory of States Civics Requirements](#)

[E-Z Voter Checklist](#)



## You can make a difference

The ideas listed in Civic Bites for High School Teachers are simple strategies that you can include to increase civic learning and voter education throughout your classes. The activities are short, easy to implement, and adaptable to many subjects. Research shows that more than 60 percent of people never register to vote because no one ever asked them to do so. So please *ask* your students!

While youth voting has increased in recent years, only a quarter to a third of eligible students actually vote. Helping your students become informed and habitual voters will make a big difference--not just in their lives--but in everyone's future. *You can make the difference.*

*Civic Bites is a non-partisan, non-profit, research-based, service-learning project of [Be A Voter](http://BeAVoter.org) Outreach and Education. These educational materials are in the public domain and may be shared with colleagues and community members. For additional information go to [beavoter.info](http://beavoter.info). Report broken links to [info@beavoter.info](mailto:info@beavoter.info).*