

Democracy Lab: 8th Grade Civics for the 21st Century

Primary Source and Generation Citizen's innovative and comprehensive approach to civic learning is fully aligned with the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. Targeted for the expansion of civic learning in social studies education, Democracy Lab is tailored for 8th grade teachers responding to the newly released Framework while preparing students for success on the proposed MCAS evaluation and mandate for civics project-based learning.

Whether teachers are designing an entirely new civics course or adding to an existing one, Democracy Lab will equip them to create learning opportunities that engage students through inquiry-based, culturally-responsive, and active learning/action-oriented approaches.

Democracy Lab offers teachers a rare opportunity to receive training and curriculum materials while belonging to a professional learning community where they will become:

- ◆ Confident in their knowledge of civics concepts
- ◆ Qualified to implement innovative, interactive, and relevant approaches for meaningful civic learning
- ◆ Capable of incorporating student-centered and action civics pedagogies
- ◆ Versed in digital and multimedia civic learning tools

DEMOCRACY LAB COMPONENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Presented by Primary Source and Generation Citizen

Democracy Lab features multiple and ongoing opportunities for teachers' professional development, crafted to support the implementation of civic learning in Massachusetts.



Summer boot camp (July 15-19, 2019 at Hebrew College, Newton, MA; PDPs & graduate credit available)

- ◆ Learn from leading scholars and expert teachers
- ◆ Explore curriculum resources
- ◆ Collaboratively design units that address new content, practice, and literacy standards

Online sessions (2-4 per year)

- ◆ Guided conversation focused on the Framework's civics content standards
- ◆ Overview of new and updated resources
- ◆ MCAS Teacher Readiness Sessions (starting in 2020-21)

*MCAS Evaluation Dates are estimated and pending final approval from DESE

STUDENT RESOURCES

Our curriculum integrates content, practice and literacy standards from the Framework and provides a model for teaching civics while promoting students' social and emotional development.



Student Curriculum Resources

- ◆ 8 custom Primary Source lesson units addressing topics from the Framework, including (each following year new units will be released):
 - Topic 1: Philosophical foundations of the United States political system
 - Topic 4: Rights and responsibilities of citizens
 - Topic 5: The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court decisions
 - Topic 7: Freedom of the press and news/media literacy
- ◆ Generation Citizen's Action Civics Curriculum
- ◆ Promotes students' development of civic and critical thinking skills and dispositions, such as:
 - Deliberation
 - Effective communication
 - Media literacy
 - Empowered civic agency
- ◆ Sample lessons are available, contact civics@primarysource.org

TEACHER RESOURCES



Democracy Lab features a wide range of relevant and high quality digital teacher resources curated to guide teachers to materials appropriate for building their civics course including:

- ◆ Lessons, videos, and teaching tools from leading nonprofits and civics organizations
- ◆ Books, articles, and blogs for teachers
- ◆ Content materials for students

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY



Our ongoing professional learning community showcases 8th grade teachers' expertise and unique voices by providing a platform where they can:

- ◆ Engage in reflective practice
- ◆ Share resources and materials
- ◆ Collaborate with colleagues throughout Massachusetts

WAYS TO JOIN

FULL SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES:

- ◆ 5 day summer boot camp in year 1
- ◆ Ongoing access to online resources for 5, 3 or 1 years (depending on subscription).
- ◆ 2-4 online PD sessions per school year
- ◆ 8 custom PS curricular units (year 1) and additional units released each following year.
- ◆ Generation Citizen's Action Civics Curriculum
- ◆ Extensive teacher resources that will be updated and added to annually
- ◆ Membership to professional learning community

ONLINE ONLY SUBSCRIPTION INCLUDES:

- ◆ Ongoing access to online resources for 5 or 3 years (depending on subscription).
- ◆ 2-3 online PD sessions per school year
- ◆ 8 custom curricular units (year 1) and additional units released each following year.
- ◆ Generation Citizen's Action Civics Curriculum
- ◆ Extensive teacher resources that will be updated and added to annually
- ◆ Membership to professional learning community

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