Calling Social Studies/Civics Educators

Implement Civic Life Project's Video Storytelling Curriculum!

Project & Curriculum Description
Civic Life Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers and advances youth civic engagement through the use of video storytelling, nurturing Democracy for generations to come.

In collaboration with the National Council for Social Studies, the Civic Life Project is recruiting a cohort of eight teachers to pilot Democracy in Action, a civics and digital storytelling curriculum for high school students with virtual technical assistance for educators. An evaluator will assess student outcomes and teacher experiences. This planning phase will inform our completion of an accessible, innovative civics education program in advance of state-wide, and eventually nationwide, school outreach.

Democracy in Action is a semester-long curriculum with lessons intended for delivery in class twice a week. The curriculum will cover topics including:
- Citizens and Civic Engagement
- Political Parties, Voters, Public Interest Groups and the Media
- Democracy and the structure and function of national governments
- Civic Engagement and Government at the State, Tribal and Local levels
- Documentary Filmmakers as Collaborators, Researchers and Interviewers
- Documentary Filmmakers as Researchers, Visualizers, Orchestrators, and Narrators
- Documentary Filmmakers as Storytellers
- Documentary Filmmaking: Pre-Production, Production, Post-Production and Presentation

Inquiry-Based Learning & Key Features include:
- Alignment to the National Council for the Social Studies College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards.
- Engaging student-centered activities to deepen civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions.
- Focus on participatory action research that leads to informed action on a local, regional or national issue.
- Guidance and opportunities to engage students in civil discourse and courageous conversations as they explore a variety of viewpoints and perspectives on civic topics studied in the course.
- Students will engage in activities that promote the development of research, reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills as part of the inquiry cycle.

Teacher Compensation
Participating educators will be compensated with a $1,500 stipend which will be paid by check in three installments.
Professional Development & Educator Support
Remote virtual professional development and technical assistance for educators will include:

Summer Professional Development:
- **June**: Orientation workshop led by Civic Life Project Co-Founders, Catherine Tatge, and Dominque Lassauer to:
  - Introduce the organization and how documentary serves as a tool for civic learning and engagement.
  - Provide a short overview of the goals for the pilot.
  - Create connection and community among the teacher cohort.
- **July**: Two-half-day virtual filmmaking workshops in which Teachers will be given a detailed overview of how to use the Civic Life Project in their classroom:
  - Identifying essential elements of a documentary
  - Introduction to storytelling
  - Introduction to videotaping interviews
  - Introduction to editing
- **August**: In-depth lesson-by-lesson curriculum review and Q&A with curriculum developer, Juanita Montes de Oca.

Semester-Long Implementation Support:
- Monthly 1 hour workshops during the school year with Civic Life Project staff on that month’s in-class lessons:
  1. Choosing a documentary topic; research technique; interview technique
  2. How to film an interview; technical skills and tools; editing interviews; securing releases from participants
  3. Creating a script; film editing; digitizing; filing and categorizing interviews and visuals
  4. Review film assemblies; integrating visuals, music, and graphics.
  5. Review rough film cuts; final feedback from CLP.
- Monthly office hours with Civic Life Project staff for 1:1 direct support
- Access to an on-call filmmaker to troubleshoot student film production issues

‘Attending each of the above sessions will be required for participation in the pilot.

Qualifications & Experience for Teachers
- Passion for social studies, social sciences, civic education, media literacy and creative learning methodologies
- Ability to collaborate well with others and effectively communicate ideas and information
- Comfortable with digital technologies, including but not limited to Google Suite and Zoom
- Will give a commitment of time to planning meetings and evaluation methodologies.

civilifeproject.org
How to Apply
Please fill out [this inquiry form](https://civiclifeproject.org), and a team member from the Civic Life Project will contact you to schedule a Zoom meeting to discuss the pilot in more detail.

More About Civic Life Project
The organization was founded by two Emmy Award documentary filmmakers and educators as a unique educational initiative to inspire high school and college students to learn about civics and to actively participate in the democratic process through documentary filmmaking. Civic Life Project has been using video storytelling in classrooms and beyond—inspiring young Americans to become active participants in the democratic process—for more than a decade. In collaboration with educators and classrooms across the nation, we have produced 120 Civic Life Project student films, providing virtual and in-person workshops, webinars, and ongoing production support and resources.

More About NCSS
Founded in 1921, National Council for the Social Studies is the largest professional association in the country devoted solely to social studies education. NCSS engages and supports educators in strengthening and advocating social studies. With members in all the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and 35 countries, NCSS serves as an umbrella organization for elementary, secondary, and college teachers of history, civics, geography, economics, political science, sociology, psychology, anthropology, and law-related education. The NCSS membership represents K-12 classroom teachers, college and university faculty members, curriculum designers and specialists, social studies supervisors, and leaders in the various disciplines that constitute the social studies.