



DEMOCRACY COACH HANDBOOK

Name:

College:

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*Learning You Want to Transfer
Civics Day Presentation Rubric*

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WELCOME TO GENERATION CITIZEN

Welcome to Generation Citizen (GC)! We are a national non-partisan and non-profit organization, founded on the belief that a healthy democracy depends on the participation of young people in politics, and dedicated to providing students the opportunity to experience real-world democracy through action civics in the classroom.

Our Mission & Vision

Generation Citizen (GC) works to ensure that every student in the United States receives an effective action civics education, which provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens. We envision a country of young people working as active and effective citizens to collectively rebuild our American democracy.

Our Values

Note: These are each of the award categories at Civics Day, too!)

We believe in...

Grassroots Change: *Every individual has a voice and the potential to change his or her community. We believe all people play a role in the development of their communities and that meaningful change grows from local and personal knowledge.*

Systemic Impact: *We believe in bug change, but always start at the root of the issue. We address the root causes of problems instead of focusing on surface-level symptoms. Working through our democratic system of government is challenging, complex, and incremental – and necessary to create lasting change.*

Open-mindedness: *We are always learning and growing. We do not have all of the answers, and there are many solutions. We must be curious, listen, reflect, make changes, and operate with humility in order to achieve our goals.*



Collaboration and Diversity: *Our differences make us stronger. Our work is strengthened by incorporating multiple points of view into everything we do. We respect and embrace the diverse backgrounds, perspectives, insights, and experiences of our partners and believe that strong personal relationships allow us to best work and learn together.*

Action: *We learn by doing. We believe that the process of trying can teach us as much as achieving our outcome. At the same time, we think carefully about the way things get done, and value learning from failure as much as celebrating success. We strive for our students to learn through experience so that they understand the process of effecting change and can apply it both now and in the future.*



About Democracy Coach Training

Agenda

May differ slightly by site!

DAY ONE:

- 9:30am: Breakfast & Registration
- 10:00am: Intro & Welcome
- 10:30am: GC 101
- 11:15am: Classroom Facilitation
- 12:10pm: Lunch
- 12:40pm: Cultural Competency
- 2:10pm: Curriculum
- 3:55pm: Closing

DAY TWO:

- 9:30am: Breakfast & Registration
- 10:00am: Recap of Day One Material
- 10:15am: Advocacy, Part I
- 11:25pm: Lunch
- 11:55pm: Advocacy, Part II
- 1:00pm: The DC Experience
- 2:30pm: Closing & Reflection
- 3:00pm: *Post-Training "Office Hours"*



Who is attending this training?

At this weekend-long training, you'll have the opportunity to meet dozens of local college students who have chosen to be a part of Generation Citizen as Democracy Coaches this semester. You will also get to meet and work with Generation Citizen staff, veteran Democracy Coaches, leaders from your college's Generation Citizen chapter (called Chapter Directors), and middle and high school youth who have gone through our program.

Why should I attend?

Each of the college students attending this weekend-long training has applied and been accepted to the Generation Citizen program, and shares a common interest in serving as a Democracy Coach (DC) this semester.

In just a few days, you will be stepping into a classroom full of middle or high school youth – with whom, over the next 10+ weeks, you will be building positive relationships, exploring a local community issue and its root causes, and applying political advocacy skills to a real-life action project.

Surveys and classroom evaluations prove that DCs have a more positive overall experience in Generation Citizen – and are far more effective classroom facilitators – when they have learned the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to implement the Generation Citizen curriculum with students.

In order to help be successful in your role this semester, Generation Citizen provides this two-day, 10-hour training course before you ever set foot in a classroom.

DC Training Objectives

What will I get out of training?

By the end of this training, you will have:

- ✓ Built a community of fellow Democracy Coaches with whom you will go through the program experience this semester
- ✓ Generated a list of “Classroom Constitution” group agreements, to apply during training weekend and with your own GC students
- ✓ Evaluated your own level of civic engagement, and connected that to the U.S. civic engagement gap and your own personal reason for joining Generation Citizen
- ✓ Reviewed GC's mission, program model and basic structure and how your role as a Democracy Coach fits into it
- ✓ Learned basic GC structures and terminology, including the Advocacy Hourglass, Civics Day and action civics, and used them to distinguish between community service, awareness raising and advocacy projects
- ✓ Examined a list of best teaching practices, and applied them to the Core Principles of Student-Centered Environments



- ✓ Reviewed the Generation Citizen curriculum framework and identified how individual lessons contribute to the construction of advocacy projects
- ✓ Practiced adapting and leading components of lesson plans
- ✓ Identified strengths and areas for growth in their facilitation abilities, drawing from peer/staff feedback and Best Practices tools
- ✓ Evaluated how your personal identity connects to power dynamics in a classroom setting
- ✓ Brainstormed concrete strategies to implement the three principles of culturally competent classroom facilitation as a Democracy Coach
- ✓ Discussed how to engage appropriately with students and with classroom spaces unfamiliar to you
- ✓ Gained a basic understanding of local political structures and processes (how a bill becomes a law, how local budgets are built) and how individuals can and do impact them
- ✓ Analyzed past GC projects using the Advocacy Hourglass framework and 4 Model Goals, focusing on the *how* and *what* DCs actually had to do to make the action project successful
- ✓ Completed Focus Issue research to practice finding specific key information, including general background information, civic players, root causes and potential goals
- ✓ Practiced putting together a class-wide action plan based on a set of targets and tactics
- ✓ Practiced using support systems & professionalism tips to problem-solve and identify the right support person in different DC Experience scenarios
- ✓ Identified solutions to personal anxieties you have about becoming a Democracy Coach.
- ✓ Written out a Week One Plan/Checklist, so that you are ready to go on Day 1 in the classroom
- ✓ Assessed your own learning and described your next immediate steps as a member of Generation Citizen



ADVOCACY

Do Now

K	W	L
What do you already know about local politics and advocacy?	What would do you want to learn about local politics and advocacy?	<i>AFTERWARDS:</i> What did you learn in this session today?

* * *

Decision-Maker Call Notes:



Civics 101

- What are the three levels (scales) of government?
- What are the three branches of government?
- Which branch of government is in charge of creating laws?
- Which branch of government is in charge of implementing laws by delivering services or programs?
- In which branch is the School District?

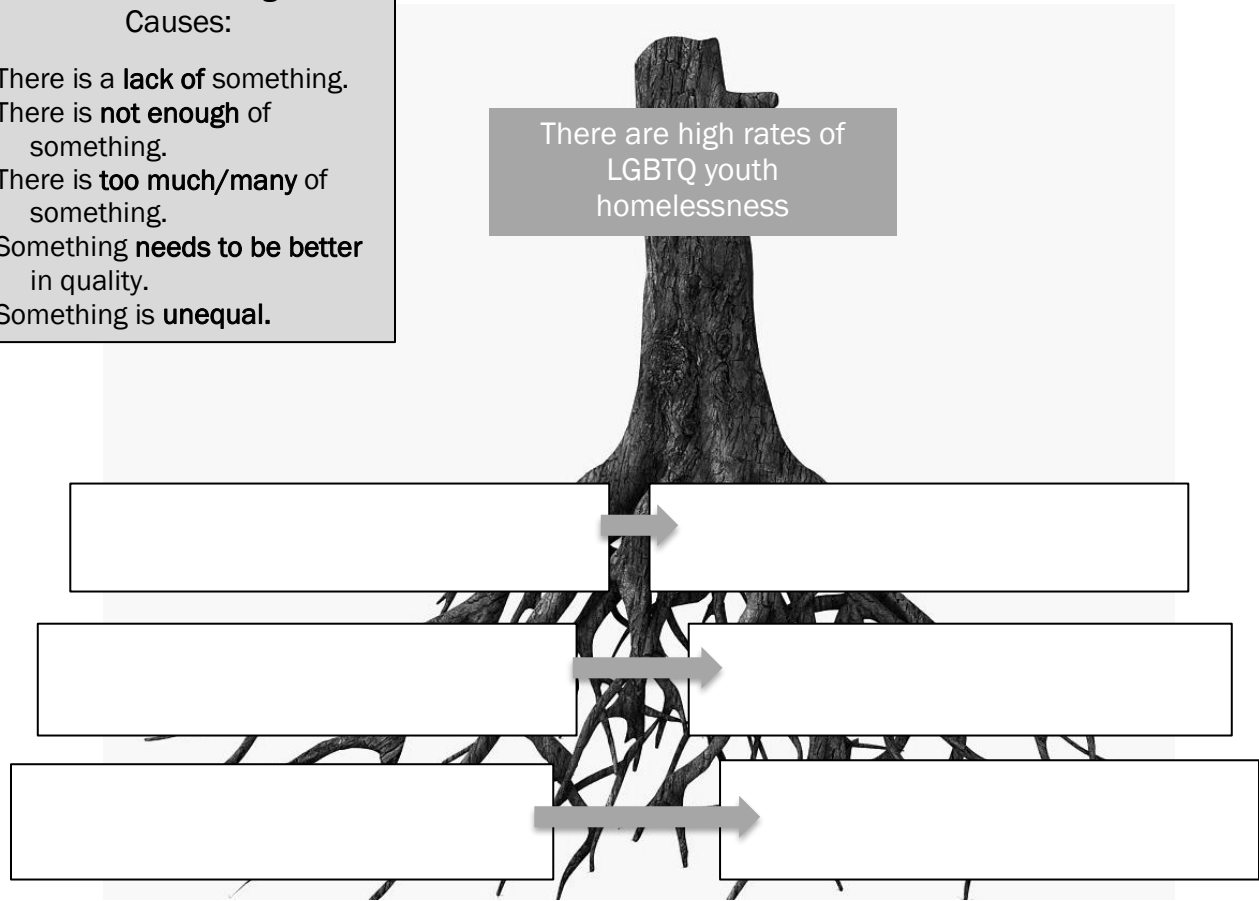
	Executive	Legislative	Judicial
National			
State			
City			

Which System?

REMEMBER! Strong Root Causes:

- There is a **lack of** something.
- There is **not enough** of something.
- There is **too much/many** of something.
- Something **needs to be better** in quality.
- Something is **unequal**.

There are high rates of LGBTQ youth homelessness



ROOT CAUSE:

Why might this issue be happening? Why is it affecting so many people?

SYSTEM:

For each root cause, which SYSTEM is in charge?