

importance of civic education

The Importance of Civic Education: A Foundation for a Thriving Democracy

Introduction:

In today's increasingly complex world, civic education is not merely a desirable addition to the curriculum; it's a fundamental necessity for the survival and flourishing of democratic societies. Understanding our rights and responsibilities as citizens is no longer a luxury but a vital skill set needed to navigate the challenges and opportunities of modern life. This comprehensive guide explores the multifaceted importance of civic education, delving into its impact on individual empowerment, community engagement, and the overall health of our democratic systems. We'll examine how robust civic education programs cultivate informed and engaged citizens, fostering a more just and equitable society for all. Understanding the why behind civic education is the first step towards building a brighter future.

Outline:

- I. Defining Civic Education: What constitutes a comprehensive civic education?
- II. Individual Empowerment: How civic education equips individuals with the tools for self-advocacy and participation.
- III. Strengthening Democracy: The role of civic education in fostering informed and engaged citizenry.
- IV. Promoting Social Responsibility: Civic education's contribution to responsible community involvement and conflict resolution.
- V. Economic Benefits: The connection between civic engagement and economic prosperity.
- VI. Addressing Misinformation and Disinformation: The critical role of civic education in navigating the

digital age.

VII. Challenges and Solutions: Obstacles to effective civic education and strategies for improvement.

I. Defining Civic Education:

What is Civic Education?

Civic education is more than just memorizing historical dates or governmental structures. It's a holistic process that cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication skills, all within the context of citizenship. It involves learning about government systems, political processes, rights and responsibilities, and the importance of active participation in a democratic society. A strong civic education program emphasizes understanding diverse perspectives, engaging in respectful dialogue, and developing the capacity for informed decision-making. It goes beyond theoretical knowledge, encouraging students to apply their learning to real-world situations and become active, responsible citizens.

II. Individual Empowerment:

Empowering Individuals Through Civic Knowledge

Civic education empowers individuals by equipping them with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate the complexities of their society. Understanding their rights protects them from exploitation and empowers them to advocate for themselves and their communities. Knowing how laws are made and how to engage with the political process allows for meaningful participation in shaping policies that affect their lives. This self-advocacy extends beyond individual needs; it empowers individuals to champion the rights and needs of others, promoting a more just and equitable society.

III. Strengthening Democracy:

The Cornerstone of a Thriving Democracy

A healthy democracy relies on an informed and engaged citizenry. Civic education plays a crucial role in fostering this engagement. When citizens understand the principles of democracy, the workings of government, and their rights and responsibilities, they are more likely to participate in the political process, hold their elected officials accountable, and contribute to the overall health of the democratic system. Informed citizens are less susceptible to misinformation and more likely to make reasoned judgments, leading to more effective and representative government.

IV. Promoting Social Responsibility:

Cultivating Responsible Citizens

Civic education promotes social responsibility by fostering a sense of community and shared responsibility. Understanding the interconnectedness of individuals and society encourages empathy, tolerance, and a willingness to contribute to the common good. By learning conflict resolution skills and understanding the importance of compromise, individuals are better equipped to navigate disagreements and work collaboratively towards common goals. This leads to stronger communities and a more cohesive society.

V. Economic Benefits:

The Economic Impact of Civic Engagement

While often overlooked, civic engagement has significant economic benefits. Informed and active citizens are more likely to participate in the workforce, contribute to economic growth, and support policies that promote economic prosperity. They are also more likely to engage in entrepreneurship and innovation, leading to the creation of jobs and economic opportunities. A society with a high level of civic engagement is generally a more stable and prosperous society.

VI. Addressing Misinformation and Disinformation:

Navigating the Digital Age

The proliferation of misinformation and disinformation in the digital age poses a significant threat to democratic societies. Civic education plays a vital role in equipping individuals with the critical thinking skills necessary to evaluate information, identify biases, and recognize propaganda. By understanding the sources of information and how to assess their credibility, individuals can make informed decisions and resist the manipulation of information. This is crucial for maintaining the integrity of democratic processes and ensuring informed public discourse.

VII. Challenges and Solutions:

Overcoming Barriers to Effective Civic Education

Implementing effective civic education programs faces numerous challenges, including limited resources, inadequate teacher training, and a lack of engagement from students. However, innovative solutions exist, such as incorporating technology into the classroom, using real-world case studies, and

engaging students in hands-on activities and simulations. Collaboration between educators, community organizations, and government agencies is crucial for creating comprehensive and impactful civic education programs that meet the needs of diverse student populations.

Conclusion:

Civic education is not a luxury; it's an investment in the future. By equipping individuals with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to be active and responsible citizens, we build stronger communities, more resilient democracies, and a more just and equitable society for all. Investing in robust and comprehensive civic education programs is not simply a matter of education reform; it is a fundamental requirement for the sustainability and success of our democratic systems. The future of our societies depends on it.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

Q: Is civic education only for students? A: No, civic education is a lifelong process. It's crucial for individuals of all ages to continue learning about their rights, responsibilities, and how to engage effectively in their communities.

Q: How can I get involved in civic education initiatives? A: You can volunteer with local organizations, participate in community events, mentor students, or advocate for improved civic education programs in your school or community.

Q: What are some examples of civic engagement? A: Voting, volunteering, participating in community discussions, contacting elected officials, and advocating for policy changes are all examples of civic engagement.

Q: Why is critical thinking important in civic education? A: Critical thinking allows individuals to evaluate information objectively, identify biases, and make informed decisions about political issues.

and social challenges.

Related Keywords:

civic engagement, civic participation, democratic citizenship, political education, social studies, responsible citizenship, community involvement, active citizenship, government, politics, rights, responsibilities, democracy, voting, election, public service, community service, social justice, critical thinking, information literacy, media literacy, digital citizenship, misinformation, disinformation, civic literacy.

importance of civic education: Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century Michael T.

Rogers, Donald M. Gooch, 2015-09-18 Imagine an America where politicians, governmental institutions, schools, new technologies, and interest groups work together to promote informed, engaged citizens. *Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century* brings together scholars from various disciplines to show how such a United States is possible today. Inspired by Alexis de Tocqueville's analysis of American democracy in the early 1800s, this edited volume represents a multidimensional evaluation of civic education in its new and varied forms. While some lament a civics crisis in America today, *Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century* raises hope that we can have an informed and active citizenry. We find the activities of a number of politicians, government institutions, schools and interest groups as promising developments in the struggle to educate and engage Americans in their democracy. New technologies and new innovations in civic education have laid the foundation for a revitalized American civic ecology. With *Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century*, we call for the United States to make these practices less isolated and more common throughout the country. The volume is broken into three major sections. First there are four chapters exploring the history and philosophical debates about civic education, particularly with respect to its role in America's educational institutions. Then, the second section provides seven groundbreaking inquiries into how politicians and political institutions can promote civic education and engagement through their routine operations. As some examples, this section explores how politicians through campaigns and judiciaries through community programs enhance civic knowledge and encourage civic engagement. This section also explores how new technologies like the Internet and social media are increasingly used by government institutions and other entities to encourage a more politically informed and engaged citizenry. Finally, the third section contains six chapters that explore programs and practices in higher education that are enhancing civic education, engagement and our knowledge of them. From the virtual civics campus of Fort Hayes State to citizens' academies throughout the country, this section shows the possibilities for schools today to once again be civics actors and promoters.

importance of civic education: No Citizen Left Behind Meira Levinson, 2012-04-23 While teaching at an all-Black middle school in Atlanta, Meira Levinson realized that students' individual self-improvement would not necessarily enable them to overcome their profound marginalization within American society. This is because of a civic empowerment gap that is as shameful and antidemocratic as the academic achievement gap targeted by No Child Left Behind. *No Citizen Left*

Behind argues that students must be taught how to upend and reshape power relationships directly, through political and civic action. Drawing on political theory, empirical research, and her own on-the-ground experience, Levinson shows how de facto segregated urban schools can and must be at the center of this struggle. Recovering the civic purposes of public schools will take more than tweaking the curriculum. Levinson calls on schools to remake civic education. Schools should teach collective action, openly discuss the racialized dimensions of citizenship, and provoke students by engaging their passions against contemporary injustices. Students must also have frequent opportunities to take civic and political action, including within the school itself. To build a truly egalitarian society, we must reject myths of civic sameness and empower all young people to raise their diverse voices. Levinson's account challenges not just educators but all who care about justice, diversity, or democracy.

importance of civic education: *Education of the American Population* John K. Folger, Charles B. Nam, 1967 USA. Study, based on statistical tables of the bureau of the census, of trends in general education - covers enrolment patterns of students (by age group, sex, colour and region), the social status of teachers (incl. Marital status, income group, etc.), the position in regard to illiteracy and educational levels, etc. References.

importance of civic education: *The End of Education* Neil Postman, 2011-06-01 In this comprehensive response to the education crisis, the author of *Teaching as a Subversive Activity* returns to the subject that established his reputation as one of our most insightful social critics. Postman presents useful models with which schools can restore a sense of purpose, tolerance, and a respect for learning.

importance of civic education: *Building Better Citizens* Holly Korbey, 2019-10-21 Educating for citizenship was the original mission of American schools, but for decades that knowledge—also known as civics education—has been in decline, as schools have shifted focus to college and career, STEM, and raising reading and math scores. But over the last few years, spurred on by political polarization and a steep decline in public understanding, civics education is seeing a nation-wide resurgence, as school leaders, educators, and parents recognize the urgency of teaching young people how America works—especially young people who have been marginalized from the political system. But this isn't your grandmother's civics. The "new" civics has been updated and re-tooled for the phone-addicted, multi-cultural, globalized twenty-first century kid. From combatting "fake news" with fact checking in Silicon Valley, to reviving elementary school social studies in Nashville, to learning civic activism in Oklahoma City, journalist Holly Korbey documents the grassroots revival happening across the country. Along the way, she provides an essential guidebook for educators, school leaders and caregivers of all types who want to educate a new generation of engaged citizens at a critical time in American democracy.

importance of civic education: *Research Anthology on Citizen Engagement and Activism for Social Change* Information Resources Management Association, 2022 Activism and the role everyday people play in making a change in society are increasingly popular topics in the world right now, especially as younger generations begin to speak out. From traditional protests to activities on college campuses, to the use of social media, more individuals are finding accessible platforms with which to share their views and become more actively involved in politics and social welfare. With the emergence of new technologies and a spotlight on important social issues, people are able to become more involved in society than ever before as they fight for what they believe. It is essential to consider the recent trends, technologies, and movements in order to understand where society is headed in the future. The *Research Anthology on Citizen Engagement and Activism for Social Change* examines a plethora of innovative research surrounding social change and the various ways citizens are involved in shaping society. Covering topics such as accountability, social media, voter turnout, and leadership, it is an ideal work for activists, sociologists, social workers, politicians, public administrators, sociologists, journalists, policymakers, social media analysts, government administrators, academicians, researchers, practitioners, and students.

importance of civic education: *Teaching Civic Engagement* Alison Rios Millett McCartney,

Elizabeth A. Bennion, Dick W. Simpson, 2013 *Teaching Civic Engagement* provides an exploration of key theoretical discussions, innovative ideas, and best practices in educating citizens in the 21st century. The book addresses theoretical debates over the place of civic engagement education in Political Science. It offers pedagogical examples in several sub-fields, including evidence of their effectiveness and models of appropriate assessment. Written by political scientists from a range of institutions and subfields, *Teaching Civic Engagement* makes the case that civic and political engagement should be a central part of our mission as a discipline.

importance of civic education: *Civic and Citizenship Education in Volatile Times* Kerry J Kennedy, 2019-04-23 The book highlights current issues influencing civic and citizenship education and their theoretical underpinnings. It provides an overview of the key features influencing 'democratic deconsolidation', suggests ways in which civic and citizenship education needs to be reframed in order to fit this new political environment, and demonstrates how social media will play a significant role in any future for civic and citizenship education. Currently, democratic institutions are under attack, democratic values are threatened, and there is a wide-scale retreat from the liberal consensus that has underpinned liberal democracies internationally. These trends can be seen in events like, Brexit, the election of a right-wing populist President of the United States and, anti-democratic governments in parts of Europe. It is this change in the direction of political ideology that is currently 'deconsolidating democracy' and thus challenging traditional approaches to civic and citizenship education. What is urgently needed is an understanding of these current trends and their implications for thinking in new ways about civic and citizenship education in the 21st century.

importance of civic education: *The Extended Mind* Richard Menary, 2010 Leading scholars respond to the famous proposition by Andy Clark and David Chalmers that cognition and mind are not located exclusively in the head.

importance of civic education: *Citizenship and Education in Twenty-eight Countries* Judith Torney-Purta, 2001 This volume reports on '... students' knowledge of fundamental principles of democracy; their skills in interpreting political communication; their concepts of democracy and citizenship; their attitudes related to trust in institutions, the nation, immigrants' opportunities, and women's political rights; and their expectation for future participation in civic-related activities.'

importance of civic education: *Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines* Elizabeth C. Matto, Alison Rios Millett McCartney, Elizabeth A. Bennion, 2017-09 For democracy to function effectively, citizens must engage together and compromise. Although these skills are critical for a vibrant society, civic engagement education is lacking in America today. This book evaluates the goals, challenges, and rewards of integrating civic education into K-12 and higher education, highlighting best practices.

importance of civic education: *Civic Republicanism and Civic Education* A. Peterson, 2011-04-12 This book critically explores civic republicanism in light of contemporary republican political theory and the influence of republican models of citizenship in recent developments in civic education across a number of Western nations.

importance of civic education: *Civic Responsibility and Higher Education* Thomas Ehrlich, 2000-01-25 More than a century ago, John Dewey challenged the education community to look to civic involvement for the betterment of both community and campus. Today, the challenge remains. In his landmark book, editor Thomas Ehrlich has collected essays from national leaders who have focused on civic responsibility and higher education. Imparting both philosophy and working examples, Ehrlich provides the inspiration for innovative new programs in this essential area of learning.

importance of civic education: *Bowling Alone: Revised and Updated* Robert D. Putnam, 2020-10-13 Updated to include a new chapter about the influence of social media and the Internet—the 20th anniversary edition of *Bowling Alone* remains a seminal work of social analysis, and its examination of what happened to our sense of community remains more relevant than ever in today's fractured America. Twenty years, ago, Robert D. Putnam made a seemingly simple

observation: once we bowled in leagues, usually after work; but no longer. This seemingly small phenomenon symbolized a significant social change that became the basis of the acclaimed bestseller, *Bowling Alone*, which *The Washington Post* called “a very important book” and Putnam, “the de Tocqueville of our generation.” *Bowling Alone* surveyed in detail Americans’ changing behavior over the decades, showing how we had become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbors, and social structures, whether it’s with the PTA, church, clubs, political parties, or bowling leagues. In the revised edition of his classic work, Putnam shows how our shrinking access to the “social capital” that is the reward of communal activity and community sharing still poses a serious threat to our civic and personal health, and how these consequences have a new resonance for our divided country today. He includes critical new material on the pervasive influence of social media and the internet, which has introduced previously unthinkable opportunities for social connection—as well as unprecedented levels of alienation and isolation. At the time of its publication, Putnam’s then-groundbreaking work showed how social bonds are the most powerful predictor of life satisfaction, and how the loss of social capital is felt in critical ways, acting as a strong predictor of crime rates and other measures of neighborhood quality of life, and affecting our health in other ways. While the ways in which we connect, or become disconnected, have changed over the decades, his central argument remains as powerful and urgent as ever: mending our frayed social capital is key to preserving the very fabric of our society.

importance of civic education: A Practical Guide for Integrating Civic Responsibility Into the Curriculum Karla Gottlieb, Gail Robinson, 2006 From Preface: This curriculum guide evolved from a national service learning project of the AACC. Recognizing that an intentional civic responsibility component was missing from many service learning initiatives, AACC selected six colleges from around the country to participate in a pilot project whose purpose was to identify service learning strategies to boost civic engagement and foster civic responsibility among community college students.

importance of civic education: Diversity, Transformative Knowledge, and Civic Education James A. Banks, 2020-03-12 WINNER 2021 Society of Professors of Education Outstanding Book Award The essays collected in this book, by James A. Banks, a foundational figure in the field of multicultural education, illuminate the interconnection between the author’s work on knowledge construction and civic education. In pieces both poignant and personal, Banks shares some of his most groundbreaking and innovative work. *Diversity, Transformative Knowledge, and Civic Education* aims to unpack the citizenship-education dilemma, whereby education programs strive to teach students democratic ideals and values within social, economic, political, and educational contexts that contradict justice, equality, and human rights. For change to take place, students need to internalize democratic values, by directly experiencing them in transformative classrooms and schools that are envisioned and described in this book. Drawn from Banks’ formidable canon, this collection highlights the conceptual, curricular, and pedagogical issues related to this dilemma, and signals a fundamental shift toward transformative citizenship education. Students, scholars and educators in the fields of multicultural education, civic education, social studies education, comparative education, and the foundations of education will find this book to be a valuable resource for discussion and discovery.

importance of civic education: A User's Guide to Democracy Nick Capodice, Hannah McCarthy, 2020-09-08 From the hosts of the Civics 101 podcast—and a *New Yorker* cartoonist—“an informative and appealing civics lesson for first-time voters and old hands alike” (*Publishers Weekly*). Do you know what the Secretary of Defense does all day? Are you sure you know the difference between the House and the Senate? Have you been pretending you know what Federalism is for the last twenty years? Don’t worry—you’re not alone. The American government and its processes can be dizzyingly complex and obscure. Until now! Within this book are the keys to knowing what you’re talking about when you argue politics with the uncle you only see at Thanksgiving, and a quick reference to turn to when the nightly news boggles your mind. This approachable and informative guide gives you the lowdown on everything from the three branches

of government to what you can actually do to make your vote count to how our founding documents affect our daily lives. Now is the time to finally understand who does what, how they do it, and the best way to get them to listen to you. "An easily digestible, illustrated guidebook to the agencies and institutions that make up the federal government . . . Just the thing for students of civics—which, these days, should include the entire polity." —Kirkus Reviews

importance of civic education: *Civic Engagement in Higher Education* Barbara Jacoby and Associates, 2009-01-27 Numerous studies have chronicled students lack of trust in large social institutions, declining interest in politics, and decreasing civic skills. This book is a comprehensive guide to developing high-quality civic engagement experiences for college students. The book defines civic engagement and explains why it is central to a college education. It describes the state of the art of education for civic engagement and provides guidelines for designing programs that encourage desired learning outcomes. In addition, the book guides leaders in organizing their institutions to create a campus-wide culture of civic engagement.

importance of civic education: *Civic Education* Richard G. Niemi, Jane Junn, 2005-05-11 Sound democratic decisions rely on a citizenry with at least a partial mastery of the rules and workings of democratic government. American high schools, where students learn the basics of citizenship, thus ought to play a critical role in the success of democracy. Yet studies examining the impact of high school government and civics courses on political knowledge over the past quarter-century have generally shown that these courses have little or no effect. In this important book, Richard G. Niemi and Jane Junn take a fresh look at what America's high school seniors know about government and politics and how they learn it. The authors argue convincingly that secondary school civics courses do indeed enhance students' civic knowledge. This book is based on the most extensive assessment to date of civic knowledge among American youth--the 1988 National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Civics Assessment. The authors develop and test a theoretical model to explain the cognitive process by which students learn about politics and they conclude by suggesting specific changes in the style and emphasis of civics teaching.

importance of civic education: *What Kind of Citizen?* Joel Westheimer, 2024 What kind of citizen is no ordinary education book. By drawing on accessible and engaging discussions around the goals of schooling, it is imminently readable by a broad public. Neither fluff nor polemic, the theory and practice described in the book are based in solid empirical research and come out of the most influential frameworks for citizenship and democratic education of the last several decades (the Three Kinds of Citizens framework that emerged from collaboration between the author and Dr. Joseph Kahne as well as consultations with thousands of school teachers and civic leaders.) - This framework has been used in 67 countries to help teachers and school reformers think about how to structure educational programs and how schools can strengthen democratic societies. - This book pulls together a decade of research on schools into one place giving the reader a comprehensive look at why schools should be at the forefront of public engagement and how we can make that happen--

importance of civic education: Schools, Curriculum and Civic Education for Building Democratic Citizens Murray Print, Dirk Lange, 2012 How can schools and the school curriculum contribute to building democratic citizens? This is a major question posed by governments, educational systems, schools, teachers and researchers around the world. One important way is to identify the competences needed for preparing democratic citizens and incorporate these within both the formal and informal school curriculum. Another question must then be posed- what competences do young citizens need to be considered as active and engaged in modern democracies? In 2011 an invited research symposium of leading civic and political educators, and social scientists from across Europe met in Hannover, Germany to consider this key concern facing Europe today. In examining the above questions the symposium addressed two significant issues: 1. Identify key competencies required for active citizenship of young people in Europe of the future. 2. Translate those competencies to school-based activities in the form of curricular and pedagogical strategies. The publication *Civic Education and Competences for Engaging Citizens* in

Democracies addressed the first issue and this volume addresses the second issue. Through discussion in the invited symposium, previously prepared papers, and participation in a modified Delphi Technique the participants have prepared chapters for this book. The chapters of this book represent the contribution of the participants before, during and after the symposium with opportunities for review and reflection about competences for democratic citizenship and the role of schools and the curriculum. Murray Print and Dirk Lange are professors from the University of Sydney and Leibniz University of Hannover respectively and are national leaders in civics and citizenship education in their respective countries. They have brought together a group of leading European civic and citizenship educators from different academic fields to explore the key issue and to identify the competences for young people to become active and engaged European citizens.

importance of civic education: Civic Engagement and Politics Information Resources Management Association, 2019 Creating transparency between government and citizens through outreach and engagement initiatives is critical to promoting community development and is also an essential part of a democratic society. This can be achieved through a number of methods including public policy, urban development, artistic endeavors, and digital platforms. Civic Engagement and Politics: Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications is a vital reference source that examines civic engagement practices in social, political, and non-political contexts. As the world is now undergoing a transformation, interdisciplinary collaboration, participation, community-based participatory research, partnerships, and co-creation have become more common than focused domains. Highlighting a range of topics such as social media and politics, civic activism, and public administration, this multi-volume book is geared toward government officials, leaders, practitioners, policymakers, academicians, and researchers interested in active citizen participation and politics.

importance of civic education: Emerging Techniques and Applications for Blended Learning in K-20 Classrooms Kyei-Blankson, Lydia, Ntuli, Esther, Nur-Awaleh, Mohamed A., 2019-10-04 Many learning options are possible in education, from traditional to blended/hybrid to fully online. Of the three delivery formats, the blended mode, which involves the fusion of online and traditional face-to-face instruction and learning activities, is considered to have the greatest potential to provide the best learning environment. As blended learning continues to evolve and expand, it is important that information regarding what constitutes the ideal combination of online and traditional pedagogical strategies in blended education and at all levels is illuminated and shared. Emerging Techniques and Applications for Blended Learning in K-20 Classrooms is an academic publication that focuses on pedagogical strategies and technologies that have been successfully employed by educators in blended instruction. In addition, the student outcomes from the use of these techniques are presented. Covering a wide range of topics such as gamification, civic education, and critical thinking, this book is essential for academicians, administrators, educators, instructors, researchers, instructional designers, curriculum developers, principals, early childhood educators, higher education faculty, and students.

importance of civic education: Philosophical Perspectives on Moral and Civic Education Colin Macleod, Christine Tappolet, 2019-04-29 Many people place great stock in the importance of civic virtue to the success of democratic communities. Is this hope well-grounded? The fundamental question is whether it is even possible to cultivate ethical and civic virtues in the first place. Taking for granted that it is possible, at least three further questions arise: What are the key elements of civic virtue? How should we cultivate these virtuous dispositions? And finally, how should schools be organized in order to make the education of citizen possible? These interrelated questions are the focus of this collection. By considering these questions from a variety of philosophical perspectives ranging from moral psychology, philosophy of education, and political philosophy, the nine essays assembled here advance our understanding of the challenges we face in trying to shape children to be virtuous citizens.

importance of civic education: Northern Lights on Civic and Citizenship Education Heidi Biseth, Bryony Hoskins, Lihong Huang, 2021-02-26 This open access book presents an in-depth analysis of data from ICCS. An international group of scholars critically address the state of civic and

citizenship education in the four Nordic countries that participated in the IEA International Civic and Citizenship Education Study (ICCS) in 2009 and 2016. The findings are of particular relevance to educators at all levels, from school education through to teacher education. Nordic countries have long traditions of democracy and their students have performed relatively well in the ICCS assessments. Nonetheless, citizenship education continues to evolve and has received increasing attention in recent educational reforms, indicating policymakers understanding that schools play an important role in establishing democratic values among future citizens. Data from ICCS can be used to analyze, discuss, and reflect on the status of civic and citizenship education and can contribute to the discourse on the potential role of education in contributing to sustainable democracies for a common future. However, teaching citizenship and learning democracy are two different things. While young people can be taught about democracy in school, it is vital that schools work together with the wider community in which youth operate to strengthen civic understanding and values for all young people regardless of their social and economic background.

importance of civic education: The Proper Role of Higher Education in a Democratic Society Vincent Bowhay, 2021 This book of contributed chapters is for educators who want to improve their understanding of the role higher education can play in developing students who are actively engaged in democratic processes and civic engagement opportunities--

importance of civic education: Teaching Civic Engagement Globally Elizabeth Matto, Alison McCartney, Elizabeth Bennion, 2021-09 A thriving and peaceful democracy requires an informed and engaged citizenry, but such citizenship must be learned. Educators around the globe are facing challenges in teaching politics in an era in which populist values are on the rise, authoritarian governance is legitimized, and core democratic tenets are regularly undermined by leaders and citizens alike. To combat anti-democratic outcomes and citizens' apathy, Teaching Civic Engagement Globally provides a wide range of pedagogical tools to help the current generation learn to effectively navigate debates and lead changes in local, national, and global politics. Contributors discuss key theoretical discussions and challenges regarding global civic engagement education, highlight successful evidence-based pedagogical approaches, and review effective ways to reach across disciplines and the global education community. Most importantly, the book provides tangible steps to link democratic education research with action that reflects contemporary global circumstances.

importance of civic education: Educating for Democracy Anne Colby, Elizabeth Beaumont, Thomas Ehrlich, Josh Corngold, 2010-01-06 Educating for Democracy reports the results of the Political Engagement Project, a study of educational practices at the college level that prepare students for responsible democratic participation. In this book, coauthors Anne Colby, Elizabeth Beaumont, Thomas Ehrlich, and Josh Corngold show that education for political development can increase students' political understanding, skill, motivation, and involvement while contributing to many aspects of general academic learning.

importance of civic education: Investing in the Health and Well-Being of Young Adults National Research Council, Institute of Medicine, Board on Children, Youth, and Families, Committee on Improving the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of Young Adults, 2015-01-27 Young adulthood - ages approximately 18 to 26 - is a critical period of development with long-lasting implications for a person's economic security, health and well-being. Young adults are key contributors to the nation's workforce and military services and, since many are parents, to the healthy development of the next generation. Although 'millennials' have received attention in the popular media in recent years, young adults are too rarely treated as a distinct population in policy, programs, and research. Instead, they are often grouped with adolescents or, more often, with all adults. Currently, the nation is experiencing economic restructuring, widening inequality, a rapidly rising ratio of older adults, and an increasingly diverse population. The possible transformative effects of these features make focus on young adults especially important. A systematic approach to understanding and responding to the unique circumstances and needs of today's young adults can help to pave the way to a more productive and equitable tomorrow for young adults in particular and

our society at large. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults describes what is meant by the term young adulthood, who young adults are, what they are doing, and what they need. This study recommends actions that nonprofit programs and federal, state, and local agencies can take to help young adults make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood. According to this report, young adults should be considered as a separate group from adolescents and older adults. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults makes the case that increased efforts to improve high school and college graduate rates and education and workforce development systems that are more closely tied to high-demand economic sectors will help this age group achieve greater opportunity and success. The report also discusses the health status of young adults and makes recommendations to develop evidence-based practices for young adults for medical and behavioral health, including preventions. What happens during the young adult years has profound implications for the rest of the life course, and the stability and progress of society at large depends on how any cohort of young adults fares as a whole. Investing in The Health and Well-Being of Young Adults will provide a roadmap to improving outcomes for this age group as they transition from adolescence to adulthood.

importance of civic education: International Encyclopedia of Civil Society Helmut K. Anheier, Stefan Toepler, 2009-11-24 Recently the topic of civil society has generated a wave of interest, and a wealth of new information. Until now no publication has attempted to organize and consolidate this knowledge. The International Encyclopedia of Civil Society fills this gap, establishing a common set of understandings and terminology, and an analytical starting point for future research. Global in scope and authoritative in content, the Encyclopedia offers succinct summaries of core concepts and theories; definitions of terms; biographical entries on important figures and organizational profiles. In addition, it serves as a reliable and up-to-date guide to additional sources of information. In sum, the Encyclopedia provides an overview of the contours of civil society, social capital, philanthropy and nonprofits across cultures and historical periods. For researchers in nonprofit and civil society studies, political science, economics, management and social enterprise, this is the most systematic appraisal of a rapidly growing field.

importance of civic education: Educating Citizens Anne Colby, 2003-02-17 Educating Citizens reports on how some American colleges and universities are preparing thoughtful, committed, and socially responsible graduates. Many institutions assert these ambitions, but too few act on them. The authors demonstrate the fundamental importance of moral and civic education, describe how the historical and contemporary landscapes of higher education have shaped it, and explain the educational and developmental goals and processes involved in educating citizens. They examine the challenges colleges and universities face when they dedicate themselves to this vital task and present concrete ways to overcome those challenges. Through a grand tour of American higher education, Educating Citizens shows how institutions can equip students with the understanding, motivation, and skills of responsible and effective citizenship. The book includes rich examples from in-depth studies at twelve institutions and from a wide range of effective programs and approaches on other campuses. The authors guidelines for implementing these programs can be applied in the full range of higher education institutions. Educating Citizens is essential reading for all who believe that higher education can play a critical role in the health of American democracy by helping students become responsible citizens of the nation, the world, and their own communities.

importance of civic education: Beyond the Culture Wars Gerald Graff, 1992 In the heated academic warfare over multiculturalism and the curriculum, Gerald Graff takes a daring stand. He suggests that the anger and hostility over political correctness should be channelled into productive debate and that teachers, administrators and students alike could actually make good use of the crisis to tackle the real problems of academic incoherence and student apathy.

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Education (PLACE) Project, which was sponsored by the British Overseas Development Administration through the International Community Education Association, is credited with being the book's catalyst. The following papers are included: Foreword (S.K. Tororei); Antecedents of the PLACE Project; Conceptualising Civic Education (S.K. Tororei); Reflections on Community Education (Berewa R. Jommo); Rationale for Political Literacy and Civic Education (Ekundayo Thompson); Purpose, Nature, and Scope of Civic Education (Samuel K. Tororei); The Development Context of Civic Education (Ekundayo J.D. Thompson, Margaret Manley); Civil Society and the Citizen (Akie Wilson, Joe Sam-King); Gender, Political Literacy and Civic Education (Agnes Pessima); The Constitution of Sierra Leone (Solomon E. Berewa); Democracy and the Rights of the Individual (David G. Thompson); Political Tolerance--A Prerequisite for Enhanced Democracy in a Multi-Party Environment (Ahmed Ramadan Dumbuya); Meaning and Nature of Government (Walter N. Davies, Peter O. Koroma); Politics, Political Literacy & Political Participation (Edward D.A. Turay); Curriculum for Civic Education (Ekundayo J.D. Thompson, Joseph Simekha). (MN)

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volume in this series. Its mission is to provide scientific and scholarly presentations on cutting edge issues and concepts in child and adolescent development. Each volume focuses on a specific new direction or research topic and is edited by experts on that topic.

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