

Name:_____.

Civic Literacy: “All Politics Is Local”

WHS Juniors Connect with **Local** and **State** Government

The objective of this assignment is to increase your civic literacy by engaging with local and state governments in ways that extend beyond your normal daily life. Strong civic literacy will assist you to be an effective citizen at the local, state, national and even global level. It includes understanding the rights and obligations of citizenship, knowing how to exercise those rights, becoming informed, and understanding governmental processes. Through this assignment, you should become better acquainted with possibilities for political participation on a local and state level, and hopefully, will be able to understand how your civic actions often have national and global reverberations as well. As Tip O’Neil, longtime US Congressman from Massachusetts and Speaker of the House once noted, “All politics is local.”

Task

In order to aid you in the development of civic literacy, you are required to have two experiences involving either the state or local governments. During these experiences, it is expected that you are an active listener and can *authenticate all your political adventures. Some examples of acceptable experiences include:

- attending a meeting (town, budget, school committee, planning)
- observing business at the State House or Town/City Hall, such as a hearing
- meeting with a local/state official (you may go in a group)

*You must submit evidence of your experience in the form of a picture.

Information:

- *Town of Wellesley Meeting Calendar:*
http://www.wellesleyma.gov/Pages/WellesleyMA_Calendar/?formid=158
- *City of Boston Calendar:* <http://www.cityofboston.gov/calendar/> (use the check boxes to the left to look at only the kinds of events you want to see. Keep all audiences checked. I unchecked all event types and then just re-checked "meeting/hearing.")
- *Mass.gov:* <http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=mg2homepage&L=1&L0=Home&sid=massgov2>
(Check out the different branches and look for calendars)

On your final exam in United States History this year, you will address a short-answer question concerning your chosen experience, thereby demonstrating your civic literacy. This will comprise 10% of your final exam score and will not be graded unless you have submitted the evidence (2 pieces of evidence) of what you have done. It is expected that you can answer the following question thoughtfully and with substantive evidence.

How does your experience in civic literacy enrich your understanding of the content you’ve learned in the past school year?

The following is a list of questions to consider further as you formulate your answer to the final exam question:

- What did your experience teach you about local and state government?
- Were there any elements of this year's course that you understand better because of your experience?
- What questions do you still have as a result of your experience in connection with course content?

WARNING: Some **local/state** experiences DO NOT satisfy this assignment's requirement:

- Going to any of the suggested places to address personal business (like obtaining a permit)
- Going to the fire station or the police station
- Voting/registering to vote/going to vote with someone else
- Other examples that do not count for this assignment include:
 - Paying a parking ticket
 - Obtaining your driver's license
 - Having to go to court
 - Having to go to the Police Station involuntary (or getting picked up/picking someone up from the Police Station)
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If you are unsure whether something counts as "personal business," check with your teacher BEFORE making any assumptions or plans.

Guiding Terms that Could Relate Your Experience to the Curriculum

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| • Voting | • Checks & Balances |
| • Regulation | • The Constitution |
| • Federalism | • Progressivism |
| • Laissez-Faire | • Taxes |

Term 4 Grading

In preparation for the final exam, you are going to do **2** write-ups to the same question using your **2** experiences. Each assignment will be worth 10 points in the assessment category. You will be assessed based upon to the extent that you answer the focus question. Keep the questions to consider in mind as you write since they are there to help you.

Due Dates for Term 4 Assignments

Due date #1: Thursday, May 15th – Day 1
Due date # 2: Friday, June 13th – Day 4.