

Name: _____.

Civic Literacy: “All Politics Is Local”

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

Due Date: Wednesday June 10th for Yellow & Green, due Thursday June 11th, for Purple block.

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 one experience involving either the state or local governments. During this experience, 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)

This assignment will count as 10 points in the homework category of your grade. As proof of completion, you must bring in evidence of what you did in the form of a photograph that is **printed out with a caption** (no pictures from your cell phone) with an explanation and reflection of your experience.

For the Civic Literacy assignment due on Wednesday June 10th for Yellow & Green, due Thursday June 11th, for Purple, please include the following in your one-paragraph reflection:

1. Date and place of event that you attended.
2. Brief description of the business you observed.
3. Description of the governing body you attended.
 - How many people sit on this committee/board?
 - How are the board/committee members given their positions?
 - Purpose/responsibilities of this governing body?
 - How often and where does this committee/board meet?
4. How did the meeting you attended help inform you of the function of local/state government?