CAP Planner • Civic Action

As people work to address problems, they usually have to take a series of civic actions. Rarely does just one action do the trick. Effective citizens start with simple actions and keep trying different things.

Assignment: You will use this worksheet over and over again to report on your last civic action and plan your next.

1. Problem, issue, or policy you are working on.

Tip: As you think more and more carefully about the issue, you might find that you change the way you look at it. Revise your problem statement if necessary.

2. What was your last civic action? Describe the outcome(s) and include any relationships to policy.

TIP: Explain what you did and how this action was an attempt to move closer to your goal, even if you did not get the results you were looking for. You should also explain how your next civic action relates to this one. Show why you are choosing the civic actions you are taking and how the outcome of one action leads you to the next. WHST.11-12.4

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3. What knowledge, skills, or attitudes of effective citizenship did you use or did you gain through doing this civic action? In other words, what did this have to do with what you are supposed to be learning in this class?

TIP: Think about the Citizenship Brainstorm from Lesson 1 and knowledge, skills, or attitudes you used or developed while planning and carrying out your civic action. Also, think about how all this relates to what you are supposed to be learning and doing in your government course, including things you have read or discussed.

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4. What is your next civic action? Be specific. For example, “Meet with ______,” or “Write to __________” or “Attend ________.” What is the purpose of this action?

TIP: Show that you are thinking things through and taking logical steps to address your issue. Show that you are a problem-solver by describing why you think this is a good next step. As you move further into CAP, your actions and goals should become more advanced. For example, you might have started with civic actions like looking up facts on the web and have graduated to calling people, attending a meeting, or persuading others to build a constituency. Some good advice: Prepare before you talk to people so that they will respect your knowledge about your issue and be more willing to help you.

5. When do you expect to complete this civic action?
6. CAP Evidence & Sources

When you are almost finished with CAP, you will be asked to share your top five most valuable sources. Start collecting sources now so you won’t have to backtrack.

List sources you have already used and write a sentence to describe what was useful about the source and any biases you noticed. Use the More Help link below to help you correctly cite your source. When possible, upload evidence and sources like photos, agendas, copies of meeting notes, and e-mails. RH.11-12.7, RH.11-12.8, RH 11-12.9