Effective citizens are able to solve problems, and they understand the role that policy plays in doing so. During this course, you are going to address a problem or an issue by taking civic actions. As you try to make an impact, you’ll explore relationships between the issue, your actions, and policy.

Another thing effective citizens are good at is convincing others that their concerns, ideas, and views are important.

Assignment: Convince your teacher that the problem, issue, or policy you want to work on is worthy of a CAP project. WHST.11-12.1

1. What problem, issue, or policy do you propose to work on?

TIP: Choose something that there is a chance you can impact. Be as specific as possible. Narrow down big issues. WHST 11-12.2b

2. Provide three claims as to why you believe this is a problem, and describe how each claim effects people in your community. WHST.11-12.1b

TIP: The problem should affect more people than just YOU. Think about how this affects people’s quality of life, as well as economic, physical, and emotional impacts. Think about fairness or equal treatment of people. Remember, you must convince your teacher that this is
3. How is the problem or issue related to policy? As you take civic actions, you'll need to deal with public policy in some way. Write a paragraph that explains how your issue is related to public policy. Provide facts and details that demonstrate the policy connection. WHST.11-12.1b

TIP: Perhaps you think new policy should be created. Or maybe you think that existing policy should be modified or eliminated. It could be that you can use policy to persuade someone to change a situation. Or perhaps you are trying to impact the way a policy is enforced.

4. Why do you want to work on this? Why do you think it is important? Introduce your claim, supply relevant information and evidence, and provide a concluding statement. WHST.11-12.1

TIP: Relevant information and evidence should convince your teacher and others that this is an important issue or problem. Photographs and quotes from articles and other sources including people who agree with you would strengthen your claims.