

What's the Fit?

Tips from a Veteran Civic Action Project Teacher

Things to consider when introducing CAP to your students:

- It's a big help to put the Civic Action Project (CAP) on the course syllabus so students know from the get-go that they will complete a culminating project over the course of the semester.
- Sharing examples of past student projects is a great way to introduce students to the idea of the CAP project. Previous projects from your own school would be ideal, but there are lots of examples in the Student Action tab of the CAP website. You can either choose a couple to highlight, or let students explore those on their own.
- Let students know that the grade for the project will not be dependent on whether or not they "fixed" the problem or issue they were working on. Assessment throughout will focus on their critical-thinking and problem-solving abilities.

CAP is flexible! There isn't a "right" or a "wrong" way to teach the five core lessons. Here are three options to consider:

Option 1: Create an introductory unit	Option 2: Correlate to your existing pacing	Option 3: Use core lessons to start the second marking period
Starting with the first five lessons from the CAP curriculum shows students how U.S. Government is unlike any other social science class they have taken before. In this option, the CAP project lasts throughout the semester. Students present their final CAP at the end of the course.	This approach lets you ground whatever concepts you're teaching in real-world examples. For example, "Lesson 1: A Different Kind of Government Course" can fit in an introductory unit; "Lesson 2: Introduction to Public Policy" can bolster your mass media or public policy unit.	One benefit of this option is that students will have some background knowledge from the first part of the course. It also gives them time to complete CAP as a final culmination of the course.

How does CAP support classroom teaching and student learning?

<p>CAP is aligned to standards.</p> <p>Lessons, CAP Planners, and assessment tools are aligned to new state standards (referred to in many states as the Common Core). CAP content and strategies fit with states' subject matter standards for civics and government. Standards alignment is noted on lessons, worksheets, and/or forms.</p>	<p>The CAP Toolkit is a great help for students.</p> <p>It shows how to do things like write and collect signatures for a petition, write a letter to a representative, write an email, etc.</p>
<p>The CAP Youth Board (CYB) is a rare peer-to-peer resource for students.</p> <p>The CYB is a group of high school and college-aged CAP alumni and civic leaders who will help coach your students through the process using the Discuss board on the CAP website.</p>	<p>When in doubt, contact CRF!</p> <p>CRF is here to help. Don't be afraid to e-mail or call the CAP team to get a hand addressing any concerns, get pointed in the right direction, or have someone help facilitate a lesson.</p>