PiG Project Community Service/Civic Action

**Pre-Tasks.** Citizens participate in civic life through volunteerism and advocacy, including efforts such as contacting elected officials, signing/organizing petitions, protesting, canvassing, and participating in/organizing events.

**Option 1: Community Service**
Secure a placement at an organization, campaign or political action group where you will volunteer for 25 hours. This is subject to teacher approval and guardians consent.

* Identify whether you will be working with an organization, campaign, political action group and state its name.
* Describe your anticipated duties, responsibilities and/or plan.
* Submit a signed parental approval form.
* Attach a brochure/flyer/website/social media link from your organization, campaign or political action group.

**Option 2: Civic Action:**
Design a political initiative of your own. You should include your goals, planned activities and an execution strategy. Your plan should be specific and is subject to teacher approval and guardians consent.

**Task 1**

**Community Service:**
1. Answer the following questions in a thoughtful, written response:
   * Why did you select to work at this organization, to support this campaign or take on this issue?
   * What do you hope to contribute/learn as a result of this experience?
2. Give a brief history of the organization, campaign or political action group.
   * What is the history and/or general goals of the organization, campaign or political action group?
   * What are the previous accomplishments of the organization, campaign or political action group?
   * What does the group and/or person wish to accomplish in the future?
   * Include internal citations and Works Cited page.

**Civic Action:**
1. Give some background on the issue you’ve chosen to take on explaining why this issue is a problem worth addressing. Why do you believe this issue is important? Explain why you care about this issue and why you either support or oppose the issue.
2. What are your goals, planned activities and the execution strategy for your political initiative?

**Task 2:** Now that you have begun volunteering, you must provide a detailed discussion of the organization, candidate or political action group:

**Community Service:**
1. Describe specific activities that the organization, campaign or political action group is pursuing to advocate for change.
   * What are specific changes that the organization, campaign or political action group seeks to achieve?
* What laws, bills or initiatives does the organization, campaign, or political action group support or seek to have implemented?

2. Describe the resources available to the organization, campaign or political action group.
   * What is the budget of the group and/or how is the campaign funded?
   * Who staffs the group and/or provides the grassroots support for the campaign?
   * How many people work/volunteer with the organization, campaign or political action group? How many people does it reach through its online outreach?
   * In what way(s) does the organization, campaign or political action group use websites or social media to further goals?
   * Include internal citations and Works Cited page.

Civic Action:
1. Describe similar events like yours being promoted elsewhere?
2. How will you use social media to gain support for your event? Add any links to those sites you have created.
3. What resources have you been required to secure in order to successfully implement your action plan?
4. Give an update of your progress to date.

Task 3: Analysis of the volunteerism or civic action in connection to larger national trends.

Community Service:
1. Describe how the issues that are important to this organization and/or campaign relate with those being discussed on a local, state or national level.
   * Are the issues that are important to the group or campaign similar or different to those of the nation in general?
   * Are there local factors that can explain this?
   * Include internal citations and Works Cited page.
2. Analyze the effectiveness of the organization, campaign or political action group.
   * Explain, based on your experience and research, what accounts for the success or failure of the organization, campaign and/or political action group?
   * Predict what, if anything, might happen with the organization, campaign or political action group in the future?

Civic Action:
1. Describe how your campaign relates with other similar campaigns on a local, state or national level.
   * Is the issue that is important to you similar or different to those of the nation in general?
   * Are there local factors that can explain this?
2. Now that you’ve been civically engaged, did you accomplish what you had hoped to do? Submit a detailed report with analysis of your success/potential to effect change for your issue. Submit appropriate documentation (statistics, geographic reach, images, records, evidence) including a timesheet, internal citations and Works Cited page.
3. What might you have done differently? WHY or why not?
4. Would you consider doing something similar to this in the future? WHY or why not?
Community Service/Civic Action Participation in Government (PiG) Approval Form

Student Name:___________________  Teacher’s Name:___________________  Date:___________

**Background:** 12th grade students at Herricks High School are required to successfully complete an approved Participation in Government course in order to graduate high school. As part of these courses, students typically write a Participation in Government (PiG) paper, which is a detailed research paper on a public policy issue whereby individuals and/or groups are directly attempting to impact the government. Typically, students acquire this information via a combination of research and telephone/email interviews with various interest groups. Alternatively, students can satisfy the requirement by completing 25 hours of community service/civic action plus a modified PiG paper that incorporates their experience. Students electing this option must secure a placement with an approved community service organization campaign or political action group rapidly after the semester commences. Appropriate community service organizations are agencies or groups that are attempting to address particular social issues/problems through government on a local, state or federal level.

*As this is a completely voluntary adaptation of the traditional PiG research and PiG paper, each participating student’s guardian must approve of and agree to their child’s participation in community service/civic action and each participating student’s guardian must also agree to be responsible for their child’s travel/transportation to and from the placement*

Student Signature:_____________________

Guardian Signature:_____________________

Community Service Information Sheet

**Background:** Below are some worthwhile organizations that can potentially fulfill your community service hours. Please be advised that the organization that you select MUST be involved in impacting/affecting government at the local, state, or federal level.

**Community-Service Organizations**

1. **St John’s Bread and Life:** [www.breadandlife.org](http://www.breadandlife.org)
2. **Long Island Coalition for the Homeless:** [www.nsch.org](http://www.nsch.org)
3. **Heifer International:** [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)
4. **Interfaith Nutrition Network:** [www.the-inn.org](http://www.the-inn.org)
5. **Island Harvest:** [www.islandharvest.org](http://www.islandharvest.org)
6. **Long Island Progressive Coalition:** [www.lipc.org](http://www.lipc.org)
7. **Long Island Wins:** [www.longislandwins.com](http://www.longislandwins.com)
8. **Nature Conservatory:** [www.nature.org](http://www.nature.org)
10. **We Act For Environmental Justice:** [www.weact.org](http://www.weact.org)
11. **We Got Issues:** [http://111one.org/wegotissues](http://111one.org/wegotissues)
12. **American Red Cross:** [www.nassauredcross.org](http://www.nassauredcross.org)
13. **Nassau Coalition Against Domestic Violence:** [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)
14. **Long Island Cares:** [www.licares.org](http://www.licares.org)
15. **Car-Less Long Island:** email: sylvia.silberger@gmail.com

**Government Institutions:**

In addition to the organizations provided above, there are other options to consider, particularly working with your elected local, state, and/or federal officials.

1. **Local Mayor’s Offices:**
2. **Town of N. Hempstead:** [http://www.northhempstead.com/content/7350/default.aspx](http://www.northhempstead.com/content/7350/default.aspx)
3. **Nassau County Gov’t:** [http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/wps51/portal/MyNassauInfo](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/wps51/portal/MyNassauInfo)
4. **New York State Senate:** [http://www.nysenate.gov/senators](http://www.nysenate.gov/senators)
5. **New York Assembly:** [http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/](http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/)
Community Service/Civic Action Timesheet

***Students are required to keep track of hours on a regular basis***

Student Name: __________________________________________

Organization/ Campaign/Political Action Group: ________________________________

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<th>Supervisor Signature &amp; Phone Number</th>
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This sheet must be attached as the last page of your finished PiG paper.
Sign the affirmation below upon completion of your community-service hours:

“I attest that the hours documented above are accurate.”

__________________________________________(Student Signature)