

CIVIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE PREPARATION KIT



Please answer the following questions thoroughly and document your sources. The information you gather will be used in several small group discussions and bill writing at the State Convention. All CLI participants are required to bring this information to the State Convention. Please list your resources used to gather information and answer the questions.

TECHNOLOGY

1. How often do you use the Internet? Do you feel safe when using the Internet?
2. Do you use social networking websites, such as Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter? Do you feel safe when using these websites?
3. Where did you learn how to use the Internet? Did you receive any guidance on what are appropriate and inappropriate behaviors on the Internet?
4. What can be done to better educate youth about the Internet? Can your school do anything to help prepare youth for the Internet? Are any websites blocked on school computers?
5. Do you have a cell phone? If so, do you use your phone to text?
6. Many youth across the country are getting in to trouble for sending inappropriate text messages. Should youth be held accountable for this?
7. Do youth need cell phones? What can be done to properly educate youth on using their cell phone appropriately?
8. A new law in Missouri prohibits people under the age of 21 from text messaging while driving. Do you agree with this law? Will it prevent people from texting while driving? What about drivers over the age of 21 – should they have been included in the law?

COMMUNITY SERVICE

1. What is community service? Do you participate in any community service activities? If so, how many hours of community service do you perform per month?
2. At some high schools in Missouri, community service hours are required to graduate? Do you believe this is appropriate? Do you feel this should also apply to middle school/junior high students?
3. What do you think of a proposal that would offer college tuition to young people willing to give back to their community and country through service, such as the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps, military service, Teach for America, and other service programs?
4. What types of activities or services would not be provided in your community or school without others volunteering their time and talents?
5. What can be done to increase the desire of youth to participate in community service activities in your community?

6. What opportunities are available to you in your community to participate in community service? What can YOU can do to increase these opportunities?

EDUCATION

1. At your school do you feel there are a variety of classes offered and activities to participate in? Please explain your answer.
2. On average, how many students do you have in a class? Do you feel there are too many students or too few students to foster a quality educational experience?
3. Do you think standardize testing is a good measure of a student's ability? Should a school be measured by the success of students on a standardize test?
4. Do you feel your school is preparing you for high school and your future? Please explain your answer.
5. Do you feel challenged in the classroom with the curriculum? Do you feel your teachers provide you with homework that stimulates your mind?
6. If you were the principal at your school, what changes would make to the curriculum? Are there classes not being taught that you think need to be taught?
7. If your school was faced with having to make cuts to classes and activities due to budget shortfalls, what would you eliminate? Why would you eliminate these classes or activities?

SMOKING

1. How does smoking affect you as an individual?
2. How do you think smoking affects the community you live in?
3. Describe how smoking affects the state of Missouri.
4. What organizations/agencies promote smoking, especially youth smoking? What are they doing to promote youth smoking?
5. What organizations/agencies help prevent youth smoking? What are they doing to help prevent youth smoking?
6. Many cities and counties have enacted laws which prohibit smoking in all public places, including restaurants. What do you think of these laws? Do you think they will have an impact on smoking?
7. What role could or should government have in reducing the use of tobacco?

ISSUE OF YOUR CHOICE

Please choose an adult in your community, school or family and discuss with them issues that affect your community, school or family. Then choose the issue you feel is the most important one facing Missouri at this time and answer the following questions.

1. Describe how the issue affects Missouri?
2. How do you think the issue affects the community you live in?
3. How does the issue affect you as an individual?
4. What organizations/agencies are involved in this issue? What are they doing to support or oppose the issue?
5. What do you think are the possible solutions for the issue?
6. What can you do to become more involved with the issue?