

# **TAB 6: CIVIC LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**



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## **OVERVIEW**

The goal of the Civic Leadership Institute (CLI) is to provide 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the unique opportunity to not only learn about state government, but also to experience it. Through various training sessions, students gain a greater understanding of how the Judicial branch functions, how a bill becomes law in the Legislative branch, and what role the press can have in government. After these sessions, the students have the opportunity to simulate each area by conducting trials, writing and debating bills, and acting as reporters to develop stories. The Civic Leadership Institute brings to life what the students are learning in the classroom. By participating, students experience the government processes they have been learning about in school, thus enhancing their knowledge of the subject.

All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in the YIG Model Government Program are assigned to the Civic Leadership Institute. The core focus is to provide an environment for students to openly debate issues important to them, work collaboratively to learn about government and participate in mock sessions. For example, students receive training on the process of writing and debating a legislative bill. After this training, students work together to write bills, conduct committee hearings, and debate in a mock legislative session.

## **ROLES**

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Students take on many roles during the Civic Leadership Institute. All students participate in small group discussions on key issues facing our state. Students serve as legislators as they write a bill, debate it in a committee session, and vote on legislation. Some students have an opportunity to serve in leadership roles, such as committee chairperson or committee secretary. A mock trial provides an opportunity for students to be attorneys as they provide the closing argument to a case in front of a panel of advisors serving as judges. Students also learn about the press and executive branch.

## **REQUIREMENTS**

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1. Participants must complete the Student Registration Form on the YIG website by the stated deadline to participate at the State Convention.
2. Students must review and complete the Preparation Kit prior to the State Convention. The Preparation Kit provides the foundation for much of the discussion and debate during the Civic Leadership Institute, so students are expected to spend significant time reflecting on the questions and providing thorough answers.

## **SAMPLE PREP KIT QUESTIONS**

Students participating in CLI must thoroughly answer questions similar to the following and document their sources. The information they 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.

### **Internet Safety**

1. How often do you use the Internet? Do you feel safe when using the Internet?
2. Do you have a social networking page, such as Facebook or MySpace? Do you feel safe when using email or social networking 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. What do you think are some possible ways to make the Internet safer for youth? How would these solutions affect you and your school?
6. What organizations/agencies help to promote Internet safety? What are they doing to help promote Internet safety?

### **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?