



Teacher-to-Teacher

Lesson Eight celebrates student engagement. The introductory read aloud, *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand*, shows the students how one idea can grow and make a difference. The **We the Civics Kids** magazine highlights the efforts of three students and one elementary class in making a positive impact in their community and state. In this lesson, students are asked to think about ways they can become engaged in their school, community, or state. With the teacher providing the parameters, students can suggest possible projects and vote on the one or ones they would like to initiate. Keep in mind, projects do not have to cost money or require collections from the home or community. A project might be working with students in a lower grade during recess or participating in the Earth Day Grocery Bag Project (www.earthdaybags.org). Other ideas are listed at the bottom of the Project Planning Sheet.

The activities below are designed to inspire students to get engaged and to provide directions on how to do so.

- The *Sticky Situation* and *Student Voice Bulletin Board* give students opportunity to strengthen problem solving skills and build student voice with discussion and deliberation.
- *Civic Engagement Project Planning* sheet allows students to record ideas for projects and list possible stakeholders, materials, and supplies needed.
- The activity, designed to complement the book *If You Made a Million* by David Schwartz, invites student philanthropists to decide what projects or causes to support with their \$1,000,000.
- The *Literacy Link* book and bookmark provide activities and discussion questions that extend the lesson.