



Lesson 8:
Making a Difference - Kid Power!

Objectives:

1. Students will be able to discuss examples of civic engagement projects.
2. Students will be able to participate in a civic engagement project.

Materials:

Book: *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand* by Jay and Liz Scott

Lyrics to the song “With My Own Two Hands”

Civic Engagement Projects planning sheet

We the Civics Kids student magazine for Lesson

Activity: Student Philanthropists: *If You Made a Million*

Student Voices Bulletin Board Activity

Literacy Link book with bookmark: *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by Dyanne Disalvo-Ryan

Common Core Standards:

- CCSS-ELA-Literacy RL 4.1 Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- CCSS-ELA-Literacy RL 4.2 Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, summarizes the text.
- CCSS-ELA-Literacy SL 4.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher led) with diverse partners and texts, building on each others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
 - SL 4.1b Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
 - SL 4.1c Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.
 - SL 4.1d Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

National Standards for Civics and Government

NSS-C. K-4.2 Values and Principles of Democracy

What are the Basic Values and Principles of American Democracy?

- What are the most important values and principles of American democracy?
- How can people work together to promote the values and principles of American democracy?

NSS-C. K-4.5 Roles of the Citizen

What are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

- What does it mean to be a citizen of the United States?
- What are important responsibilities of Americans?
- What dispositions or traits of character are important to the preservation and improvement of American democracy?



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Lesson Procedures: Session 1

1. Have students listen to the song “With My Own Two Hands”. Several versions are available on YouTube for you to select. Distribute the song lyrics sheet and discuss what is meant by the lyrics.
2. Read *Alex and the Amazing Lemonade Stand* and discuss how Alex’s actions relate to the song.
3. Introduce the term **engagement**. Tell the students the ways they have already shown their engagement in the previous lessons: voicing ideas and opinions, listening to the ideas of others, problem solving, and writing petitions.

Lesson Procedures: Session 2

1. Distribute the **We the Civics Kids** magazine for Lesson 8. Discuss the cover and title captions. Read *Kid Power – Yes, You Can!*
2. According to the definition of civic engagement in the piece, how did the students in the stories show they were engaged?
 - a. Would these be activities that you could do?
 - b. Has anyone participated in one of these activities or one similar to these? Explain

Lesson Procedures: Session 3-4

1. Review the activities conducted by the students in the *We the Civics Kids* magazine.
2. Distribute Civic Engagement Projects planning sheet and explain the project.
3. Working in small groups, ask students to think of possible engagement activities for the class. (The teacher can decide to only consider whole class projects or small group projects or a combination of both)
4. Have groups report out their ideas and record their ideas on a master list.
 - a. Ask students to think about other ideas to be added to the list.
 - b. After several days, review the list with the students and have the class vote on the top five. (The teacher can decide to limit the number to 2, 3, or 4 if preferred.)

Lesson Procedures: Session 5 plus...

1. Review the list of top ideas voted on by the students.
2. Select one or more project ideas from the list. (Teacher discretion regarding the selection process.)
3. If possible, initiate the project or projects selected.

Other Suggested Readings:

- Literacy book for lesson activity: *If You Made a Million* by David Schwartz
- Literacy Link book with bookmark: *Uncle Willie and the Soup Kitchen* by Diane Disalvo-Ryan
- *Real Kids, Real Stories, Real Change: Courageous Actions Around the World* by Garth Sundem: Supplementary literature

Tech Connections:

- **Kids Make a Difference: Scholastic:**
<http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=504>