

# McCormick Foundation Civics Program

Teaching with Controversy

Service Learning

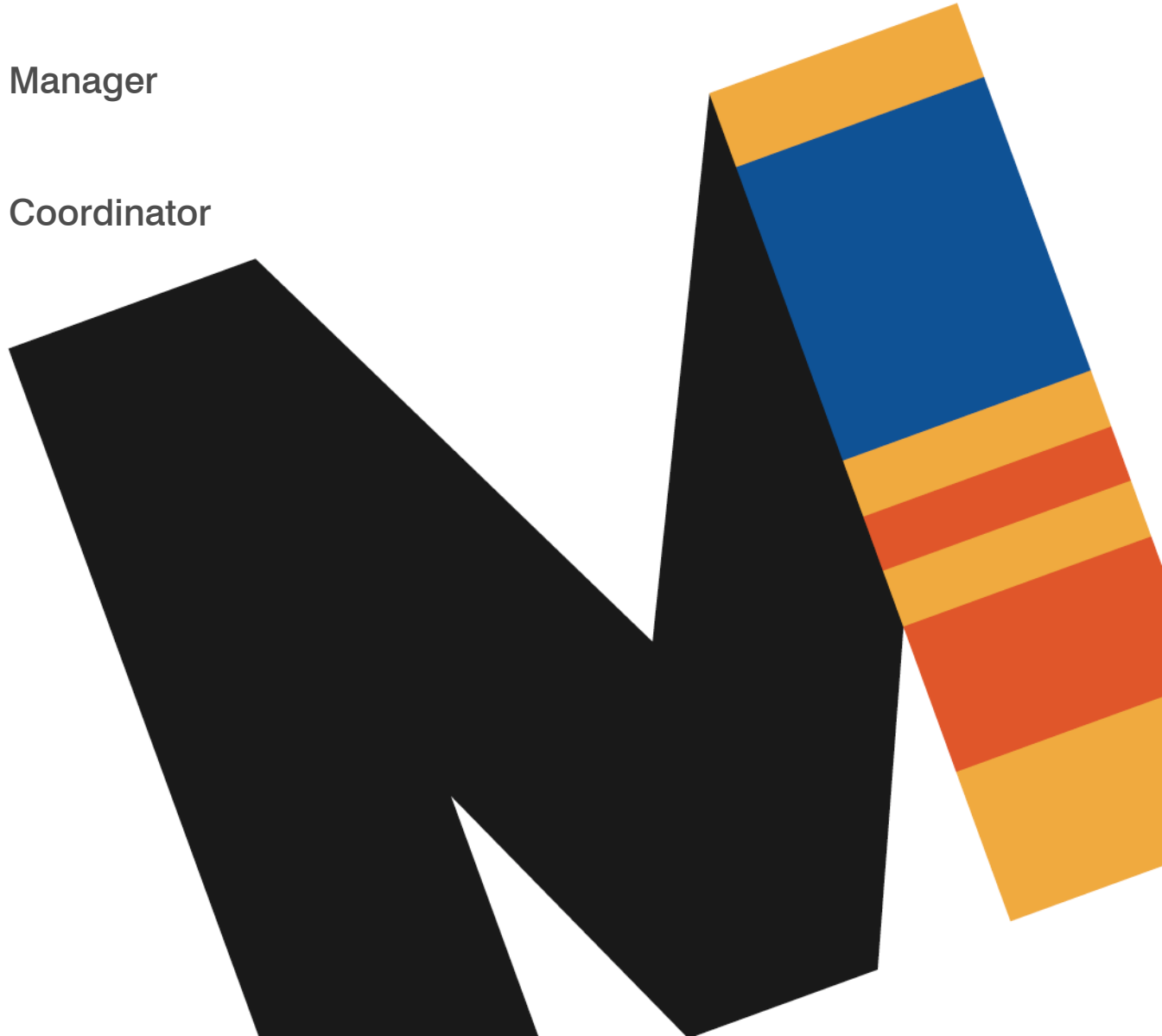


# McCormick Foundation Civics Program

## Civic Reflection

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# About Civic Reflection

## *What is civic reflection?*

In a nutshell, civic reflection is reading, thinking and talking with each other about our life in community and four fundamental human activities that nourish that life: giving, serving, associating and leading.

## *What happens in civic reflection?*

Groups of people gather in a hospitable way for conversation about a short reading that raises fundamental questions about some aspect of their civic activity. As people read and talk, they draw on their experiences and values to understand the text, and they draw on the ideas, questions and values illuminated by their conversations to think about their real-life civic activities and challenges.

## *What are some likely results?*

- Improved relationships with participating colleagues, characterized by greater tolerance of differences and a stronger sense of common purpose.
- Greater conviction about the importance of civic activity.
- New and richer ways of conceptualizing and talking about the values in civic activity.
- Heightened commitment to and understanding of a group's mission.

- *From the Project on Civic Reflection*



# About Civic Reflection

*What kinds of groups will this be helpful to?*

In our experience, civic reflection can be helpful to any group of civically engaged people, from staff and trustees of a single organization, to philanthropic or nonprofit leaders, to donors and volunteers in a common geographical area or field of work, to young people exploring the call to service or their relations to their neighbors and neighborhood. The possible audiences for civic reflection are as numerous as the ways in which citizens give... serve... lead... and associate.

*What distinguishes civic reflection from other kinds of reading and discussion programs, issues forums and study groups?*

First, civic reflection is organized around basic questions about civic activity such as, Whom do we serve? What do we expect of those we serve? To whom are we accountable?

Second, conversations about a group's activities are framed by a reading in literature or nonfiction that is somewhat removed from the direct experience of the members.

*- From the Project on Civic Reflection*

# CIRCLE Working Paper 33:

The Impact of Participation in Service-Learning on High School Students' Civic Engagement

What are some highlights from the study?

Was there anything you found surprising in their analysis?

What are some of the limitations of this study?

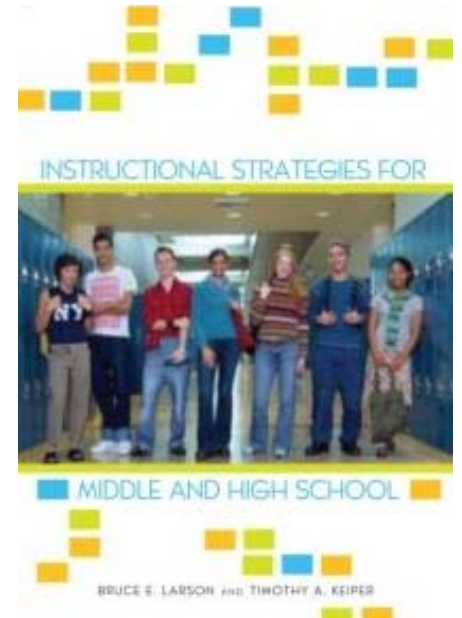
What does the research reveal about the field of service learning?



# Chapter 8: Cooperative Learning

What are essential elements of cooperative learning?

Where are those elements of cooperative learning found in service learning?



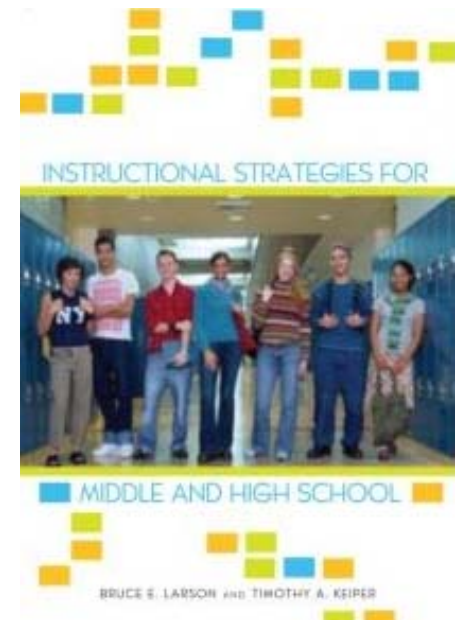
# Chapter 11: Student Directed Investigation

What are some characteristics of student-directed learning?

What is Constructivism? What are some beneficial learning outcomes of Constructivism?

What are some challenges of Constructivist Teaching? What are some criticisms of Constructivism?

From Bransford, Brown and Cocking's research summary (2000), what are three implications for teachers to consider when utilizing student directed investigation?



# Roots of Service Learning

## Historical Roots:

- Character Building
- Economic Development
- Social Justice
- American Dream (Hochschild and Scovronick's *The American Dream and the Public Schools* - 2003)
- “New America” - globalization, specialization, technology, information, centralization, gentrification

## Philosophical Roots:

- Alfred North Whitehead *The Aims of Education and Other Essays* (1929) - Rhythm, Vitality, Thoroughness
- John Dewey - Experiential education, Reflection, Interaction
- Existentialism - age-appropriateness, self-expression, choice, good faith, authenticity and self-knowledge; existential moment



# McCormick Foundation Civics Program

## Service Learning & the Civic Mission of Schools

Michael Mangan  
Service Learning Project Director  
The Center: Resources for Teaching and Learning



# McCormick Foundation Civics Program

## Service Learning in Practice

Mike Mangan - Eisenhower High School, Blue Island

Bill Weeks - Al Raby School for Community and Environment, Chicago

Mary Ellen Daneels - Community High School, West Chicago



Al Raby

School for Community & Environment



# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment

- Raby is a Chicago Public School on the west-side of the city.
- Ethnic makeup is 95% African American, 3.5% Hispanic, .5% Caucasian.
- Named after the Civil Rights leader – Albert Raby, who lead the Chicago Freedom Movement in the 1960's.
- The school is seven years old.
- 98% of the student population is at or below the national poverty level.



Al Raby 3545 West Fulton Blvd, Chicago

# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment



Harvey Milk – 1<sup>st</sup> openly gay elected official. Slain while serving as City Supervisor of San Francisco, California.

- Al Raby Gay/Straight Alliance (ARGSA) was founded 3 years ago from a request by the Assist. Principal and the support of the Principal.
- In year 2 students wanted to participate in the National “Day of Silence” at the school to bring anti-lgbt violence to the attention of the faculty, staff and community.

# AI Raby

## School for Community & Environment

- Last year, the student's of ARGSA organized a three pronged approach to the "Day of Silence".
  - Our students attended a full day training session by Illinois Safe Schools Alliance on How best to organize your "Day of Silence" day.
  - Students sent letters to faculty telling them of the event and educating on the issues.
  - Creating a visual display on LGBT violence in America.



### **Matthew Shepard**

(December 1, 1976 – October 12, 1998) was a student at the University of Wyoming who was tortured and subsequently murdered near Laramie, Wyoming. He was attacked on the night of October 6, 1998 and died in Fort Collins, Colorado, on October 12, from severe head injuries.

During the trial, witnesses stated that Shepard was targeted because he was gay. His murder brought national as well as international attention to the issue of hate crime legislation at the state and federal levels.

Russell Arthur Henderson pleaded guilty to felony murder and kidnapping, allowing him to avoid the death penalty. Aaron James McKinney was convicted of felony murder and kidnapping. Henderson is currently serving two consecutive life sentences and McKinney is serving the same but without the possibility of parole.

### **The attack**

Shortly after midnight on October 7, 1998, 21-year-old Shepard met McKinney and Henderson in a bar. McKinney and Henderson offered Shepard a ride in their car. Subsequently, Shepard was robbed, pistol whipped, tortured, tied to a fence in a remote, rural area, and left to die.

Shepard was discovered eighteen hours later by Aaron Kreifels, who at first thought that Shepard was a scarecrow. At the time of discovery, Shepard was still alive, but in a coma. Shepard suffered a fracture from the back of his head to the front of his right ear. He had severe brain stem damage, which affected his body's ability to regulate heart rate, body temperature and other vital signs. There were also about a dozen small lacerations around his head, face and neck. His injuries were deemed too severe for doctors to operate. Shepard never regained consciousness and remained on full life support.

He was pronounced dead at 12:53 A.M. on October 12, 1998 at Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins.

# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment



Gay victims of the Nazi Holocaust

Revictimized by the U.S. Government after the war.

- The night before the event,
  - students filled the school cafeteria with 3' x 6' posters of some of the more infamous cases of anti-lgbt violence.
  - Students pledged to remain silent in the halls, cafeteria and classrooms unless teachers asked them to explain.

# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment

**HOW MANY FAGS DOES IT TAKE TO SCREW IN A LIGHT BULB?**

☐ TWO

☐ FOUR

☐ SIX

☐ MORE THAN SIX

[▶ CAST YOUR VOTE!](#) [▶ VIEW RESULTS](#)



- The day of the event,
  - ARGSA students wore t-shirts and duct tape across their mouths into classrooms.
  - A separate space was set up in the school lunchroom for participating students to go for debriefing and decompressing.
  - Faculty and staff were open to bringing the event up in their classes



# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment



Signs from Fred Phelps group at the funeral of a fallen American soldier.

Students from Al Raby were seen walking around the cafeteria to read the numerous posters and discussions were overheard about what the whole day meant.

At the next staff meeting, the ARGSA was applauded by the faculty and several faculty members reported that they were moved by the experience.

# Al Raby

## School for Community & Environment



- Since then, we in education throughout the U.S. have seen a rash of teen suicides attributed to anti-lgbt suicides.
- Our faculty and staff took a stance and posted “The Trevor Hotline” phone number in all of the classrooms and posters stating “This is a LGBT Safe Space” on their classroom entrances.

# Service Learning

*by Mary Ellen Daneels, CHS, West Chicago, IL*

**Never** doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~**Margaret Mead** ...





# Service learning allows students to:

- Apply academic, social and personal skills to improve their community.
- Make decisions that have real, not hypothetical results.
- Grow as individuals, gain respect for peers and increase civic participation.
- Develop as leaders who take initiative to solve problems, work as a team and demonstrate their abilities while and through helping others.



# Service Learning has four components

- Research: What is the problem?
- Action: Address the problem
- Reflection: Is it working? What have I learned?
- Demonstration: Show others what you did and explain effectiveness.

# Research

- Surveys
- Interviews
- Field Studies
- Case Studies
- Literature



# Action

- Research
- Advocacy
- Direct Action
- Indirect Action



# Reflection

- Journals
- Evaluation
- Rubric
- Peer Listening





# Demonstration

- Press Release
- Web Site
- Presentation
- Brochure or booklet
- Paper



# West Chicago Community High School





# The Spiraling Curriculum Leading to Effective Citizenship

- Freshmen Year: Geography
  - *What role do I play in the global community?*
- Sophomore Year: World History
  - *How does modern history affect the world?*
- Junior Year: United States History
  - *What does it mean to be an American?*
- Senior Year: United States Government
  - *What does it mean to be an effective citizen?*
- Elective: Community Leadership
  - *What does it mean to be an effective citizen in the global community?*



# Example of Service Learning

Student Activity Project



# Student Activity Project

- The School Board made it a goal of the school to have every student participate in at least one club, sport or activity
  - Students in activities tend to have more school spirit.
  - Students in activities tend to have a more positive school experience (belonging).
  - Activities help students build resumes for college and post-high school
  - Students in activities tend to have better grades (academic success).



# Activity Project Step One

- Survey Sponsors to find out more about activities
- Survey Freshmen to find out what they are interested in
- Analyze surveys
- Individual Freshmen Follow-up: letter, phone call, e-mail
- Counselor Follow-up



## Step Two

- Upper class surveys to find out why students do or do not participate
- List successful strategies and obstacles
- Have an Activity Symposium to report findings to presidents and captains
- Give list of possible recruits to activities
- Have Activity Fair before homecoming to give freshmen information

# Step Three

- Report findings to school board
- Report action plan to school board
- Is 100% participation realistic?







# PARD?

- Preparation
  - Action
  - Reflection
  - Demonstration
- Surveys, Interviews, Guest Speakers
  - Symposium, Activity Fair, Individual Follow-up
  - Individual Follow-up, Activity Follow-up, Counselor Follow-up
  - School Board



# Service Learning is NOT

- Volunteerism: you must understand why and evaluate your success
- Criticism: research without a plan of action



# Civic Mission Coalition

## “Democracy Schools”

- Formal Instruction in U.S. government, history, law and democracy using interactive methods and opportunities to apply learning to “real life” situations
- Discussion of current events that students view as important to their lives; discussion puts formal civic instruction in context of current political issues
- Service Learning: research, advocacy, direct action, indirect action
- Student Voice in school governance

# Places to start

- RDA materials
  - [Project Citizen](#) from the Center for Civic Education; SL curriculum for elementary, middle school and high school
  - [The World We Want](#) documentary about Project Citizen around the world
  - Center on Congress at Indiana University; [The Importance of Citizen Participation](#) learning modules → look for “Individuals who Made a Difference” based on Stephen Frantzich book *Citizen Democracy*
  - The Center for Civic Education; [Representative Democracy in America](#) → Program 6
  - National Conference of State Legislatures → [America’s Legislators Back to School Program](#)



# Places to start

- [Faces of Freedom](#) from the McCormick Foundation
- Constitutional Rights Foundation → [Civic Action Project](#)
- [The Complete Guide to Service Learning](#) by Cathryn Berger Kaye
- Learn and Serve America → [www.servicelearning.org](http://www.servicelearning.org)
- Youth Leadership Initiative → [Democracy Corps](#)

# Sources

Project on Civic Reflection <http://www.civicreflection.org/>

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<http://www.civicyouth.org/PopUps/WorkingPapers/WP33Billig.pdf>

Learn and Serve America's National Service-Learning Clearinghouse <http://www.servicelearning.org/>

Illinois Board of Education Curriculum & Instruction - Service Learning  
[http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/service\\_learning/html/students.htm](http://www.isbe.net/curriculum/service_learning/html/students.htm)

National Youth Leadership Council <http://www.nylc.org/>

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