

DEMOCRACYREADY NY OCTOBER NEWSLETTER



THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER AT A GLANCE

- Lesson plans, teaching tools, and other essential resources for talking about the election at your school.
- As part of U.S. Media Literacy Week 2024, the DemocracyReady NY Coalition issued a new report calling on the New York State Education Department to advance *universal access to media literacy education* for all New York students.
- Your vote matters! It only takes 2 minutes. [Register to vote.](#)



Center for Educational Equity intern Yanira Rivera and DemocracyReady NY youth member Martine Dosa [moderated a panel about the importance and complexity of teaching for democracy during a pivotal election season.](#)

The youth panel included passionate young people from Cyphers for Justice, DemocracyReady NY, Youth Power Project, YVote, and The Gem Project, Inc., as they shared their concerns about the upcoming election, and what they'd like to see in K-12 education.

A big thank you to the Social Studies Education Department at Teachers College, Columbia University, for organizing this essential panel!

ELECTION RESOURCES FROM OUR COALITION MEMBERS

BRETT LEVY, PROFESSOR OF EDUCATIONAL THEORY AND PRACTICE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Brett Levy created www.teachingelections.org, to help educators teach about elections and related issues.

BETH RUBIN, PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION AT TEACHERS COLLEGE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

A compilation of resources for teachers, young people and scholars from the [Teaching for Democracy When Democracy Is on the Ballot](#) event series this fall.

CIVICS FOR ALL, NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As the 2024 election approaches, the NYC Public Schools Department of Social Studies & Civics has compiled [this resource collection](#) to support teachers in preparing students not just for Election Day itself, but for understanding the election's impact after the polls close.

DOSOMETHING

Your vote matters! It only takes 2 minutes. [Register to vote.](#)

DoSomething is looking for changemakers from the next generation of voters (that's YOU), to share what they're showing up for this election. Those with the most impactful stories could earn \$1,000! [Show up for what.](#)

FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES

- [Fostering Civil Discourse: Difficult Classroom Conversations in a Diverse Democracy](#) Tools and strategies for classroom teachers to navigate crucial and difficult classroom conversations in the current moment and beyond.
- [Teaching Resources for US Elections](#) Use these resources on voting, media literacy, polarization, and bias to talk about US elections with your high school and middle school students.
- [Political Polarization in the United States](#) This explainer provides an explanation for students on political polarization and how it impacts US democracy and society. There are also [classroom lessons](#) available.
- [Processing US Presidential Election Results](#) These classroom resources will help students make sense of the election before and after the results are announced.

GENERATION CITIZEN

Join Us for a Free Webinar: Open to All Educators!

Join veteran Generation Citizen educators on October 29th for a must-attend webinar on Navigating Post-Election Classroom Discussions. Learn how to Prepare, Build, and Engage using our proven framework, and leave with practical tools to facilitate inclusive and respectful conversations in your classroom.

Date: Tuesday, October 29th
Time: 7:00pm EST
Location: Zoom Webinar
[Register HERE](#)

JENNY OSOWSKI, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER AT OSTELIC VALLEY CENTRAL SCHOOLS

[This website provides](#) C-SPAN Classroom video resources explaining the various aspects of the election process for candidates vying to become the next President of the United States. Separated into various sections, each topic is supplemented with related video clips, bell ringers, lessons, discussion questions, handouts, and culminating activities to reinforce students' learning. These resources will be updated with new resources as the election process unfolds.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK

[A printable palm card with voting dates and deadlines in New York State.](#)

LINDSEY CORMACK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND DIRECTOR OF THE DIPLOMACY LAB AT STEVENS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

[How to Raise a Citizen \(And Why It's Up to You to Do It\)](#) provides actionable steps for parents and educators to encourage civic engagement from a young age, making it a great resource for empowering students to understand their role in democracy.

[DCinbox](#) is a comprehensive tool for tracking and analyzing communications from elected officials, helping educators and community members stay informed and engaged.

MIKVA CHALLENGE

Check out the [Elections In Action lesson plan sampler](#) including:

- Setting Class Agreements and Norms
- The Power of Voting
- Voter Values
- Community Voting Analysis
- Creating Voter Guides

PROJECT LOOK SHARP

Project Look Sharp has **147 free lessons** related to presidential campaigns. Each of our media decoding lessons are question-based, student-centered, curriculum-driven, and come with all the media (videos, slides, etc.), a lesson plan and handouts. Here are some of the lessons for the 2024 election:

- [What is a Campaign?](#) (elementary level). Students analyze historic and contemporary campaign media for messages about purpose, media types and democratic process.
- [Harris vs Trump: Whose Language, Whose Issues?](#) Students analyze webpage issue lists to identify which are from the Harris and which are from the Trump campaigns, reflecting on language choices, target audience, and their own biases.
- [Kamala Harris & Donald Trump Video Biographies](#) Students analyze Donald Trump and Kamala Harris film biographies for messages about presidential leadership, media creation, and how political bias shapes media interpretation.
- [Messaging Masculinity in the 2024 Presidential Campaign](#) Students analyze speeches and analysis from the 2024 Republican and Democratic conventions for messages about defining masculinity, political campaign messaging and identity as a factor in media interpretation.
- [Satirizing Trump and Harris - Comedy, Bias, and Impact](#) Students explore political satire through the analysis of comedy sketches related to the 2024 presidential debate between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.
- [The Immigration Debate: Trump vs Harris](#) Students analyze political ads from the 2024 presidential campaign for messages about immigration, media construction, and our own interpretations.
- [To Break the Glass Ceiling: Analyzing Campaign Ads by Women Running for President](#) Students analyze political campaign ads for messages about female presidential candidates, historical and cultural context, and techniques of persuasion.

- [Good Data - Bad Feelings: Graphing Economics, Public Opinion and Media Coverage](#) (Math) Students analyze graphs and media analysis for messages about the relationship between media reporting on the economy and public opinion.

UNITED 4 SOCIAL CHANGE

- Academy 4SC videos, [US Elections Category](#)
- Simulations from our task force library: [Design a New Election System](#), [Voter Suppression](#), [Compulsory Voting](#), [Can a Robot Vote?](#)
- AI Ethics resource: [AI in Political Campaigns](#)

WOMEN CREATING CHANGE

📢 Save your spot! Join WCC on October 31 at Noon to boost your advocacy skills at our online workshop! Whether you are new to civic engagement, or looking to sharpen your approach - there is something for everyone!

Led by nonprofit leader Lakimja Mattocks, the workshop will help you to identify and influence key decision makers on important issues that matter to you!

[Register here today!](#)

YVOTE

The [Youth Civic Hub](#) is a for-youth, by-youth digital platform equipping NYC high school students to be engaged and informed civic actors. The site, developed by high school and college youth from NYC-based nonprofit organizations, features civic resources and opportunities specifically geared towards young New Yorkers.

The Hub's current features include:

- [Elections Portal](#): Easily register or pre-register to vote!
- [Opportunity Board](#): Find civic programs, events, and volunteer opportunities in NYC.
- [Weekly Newsletter](#): Sign up for a weekly digest with curated opportunities and events from the Hub's Opportunity Board.
- [Power Map](#): Learn about 90+ elected officials, including their responsibilities, recent legislation or actions and who else in the local government they work with.
- [Civic Glossary](#): Breaking down complicated civics terms with youth-written definitions and examples.
- [Organization Directory](#): Find dozens of NYC-based organizations that serve young New Yorkers.

And more features are on the way! The Youth Civic Hub is a one-stop-shop for NYC teens to plug in to local changemaking efforts and enhance their own civic learning (with great potential for in-classroom use).

If you have any questions about the Youth Civic Hub, how to use it in your school, or to share feedback, please email katie@yvoteny.org.

IN OTHER NEWS

New York Students Need Media Literacy Education Now

As part of U.S. Media Literacy Week 2024, the [DemocracyReady NY Coalition](#) issued a new report calling on the New York State Education Department to advance *universal access to media literacy education* for all New York students. The report presents a plan to help guide state education officials in taking immediate action to ensure New York does not continue to fall behind other states that have already taken steps to ensure their students

become media literate.

In today's world, media literacy is a necessity and must be part of the pathway to a high school diploma. Young people engage with screen media for many hours each day, and media messages influence nearly every aspect of their lives. Media literacy encompasses the knowledge and skills students need to think critically and make responsible decisions about the media they consume, create, and share. It provides a vital set of tools that ensure young people can navigate the new world of social media, artificial intelligence (AI), and other emerging technologies.



Read Our Plan

“

Media literacy must be an essential part of education today.

”



| OCTOBER 21-25, 2024

- **Join NAMLE in making the 10th Annual U.S. Media Literacy Week the biggest celebration in support of media literacy education yet — October 21-25, 2024!** Hosted by the National Association for Media Literacy Education ([NAMLE](#)), the mission is to highlight the power of media literacy education and its essential role in education all across the country. U.S. Media Literacy Week calls attention to media literacy education by bringing together hundreds of partners for events and activities around the country.

Learn more about ways to [get involved](#), check out their free [resources](#), help us spread the word, and more!

Teachers Advancing Civic Learning (TACL)



Scan this QR Code to join now!



- [Join the CivXNow Teachers Advancing Civic Learning network!](#) Teachers Advancing Civic Learning (TACL) is a grassroots network of educators trained and empowered to advance and strengthen civic learning through policy at the local, state, and national levels.
- Read the latest [September/October Empire State Granger Newsletter](#)
- Join Reform Elections Now for their webinar, Our Election System is Broken on [Wednesday, October 30, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. ET](#), when they will discuss why our democracy is at risk and how to fix it.
- Listen to the latest episode of the Next Generation Politics Roundtable podcast, “Passionate Voices in Imperfect Moments Make a Difference” [Listen here](#)
- Watch the DemocracyReady NY New York Civic Learning Week 2024 Webinar Series [here](#).

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

Yvote Youth Civic Hub

- The [Youth Civic Hub](#) is a for-youth, by-youth digital platform equipping NYC high school students to be engaged and informed civic actors. The site, developed by high school and college youth from NYC-based nonprofit organizations, features civic resources and opportunities specifically geared towards young New Yorkers.

New York Public Library

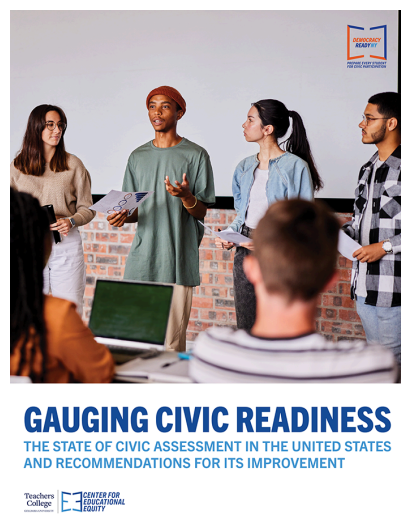
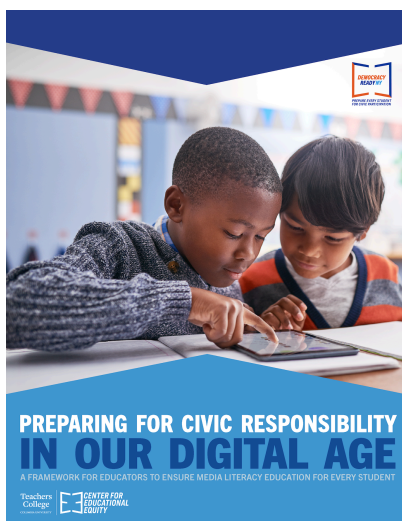
- Check out New York Public library’s [College and Career Pathways Resources](#) calendar to stay up to date with scholarships, internships and program opportunities.

Join an NYC Youth Leadership Council

- NYC Youth Leadership Councils (YLCs) are a network of youth groups focused on policy, practice, and advocacy to make local change happen. [Learn how to join or host a council here!](#)

Take a look at this [list of scholarships](#) and consider applying!

READ THE LATEST FROM DEMOCRACYREADY NY



[Preparing for Civic Responsibility in Our Digital Age: A Framework for Educators to Ensure Media Literacy Education for Every Student](#)

- Authored by media literacy expert Faith Rogow, PhD, this media literacy education outcomes framework is written for pre-K-12 school librarians, teachers, school and district administrators, school board members, and the educators and policymakers involved in creating state education standards or teaching pre-service courses for education professionals.

[Gauging Civic Readiness: The State of Civic Readiness in the United States and Recommendations for Its Improvement](#)

- Preparing young people for their civic responsibilities in a democracy is an essential role of schools in the United States. Yet, this report shows that over 80% of states currently ignore the need to assess the full extent to which students are being prepared for capable civic participation.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

[DemocracyReady NY](#) is a statewide, nonpartisan, multigenerational coalition committed to preparing all students for civic participation. Coalition members include educators, researchers, youth leaders, education stakeholder groups, civic education practitioners, youth-development specialists, parents, civic leaders, and advocates. Founded in 2018 by Michael Rebell and Jessica Wolff, the Coalition is convened by the Center for Educational Equity at Teachers College, Columbia University. The Center's mission is to strengthen educational rights for all students through research, legal strategies, and collective advocacy.



Teachers College, Columbia University



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