

# ***We the People: Project Citizen***

**Level 1 (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)**

**Steps of Project Citizen**

**aligned to**

**Six Elements of the Inquiry Arc**

**as found in the**

**Arizona History and Social Science Disciplinary Skills and Processes  
Anchor Standards**

Terri Welsh

## **Inquiry Arc – Level 1**

Learning to investigate questions in the social studies disciplines results in a deeper understanding of content and a stronger connection to the material being studied. Students must gather and evaluate evidence, formulate arguments, critique counter claims, and communicate their conclusions through many modes including writing, speaking, and visualizing. The six components of the Inquiry Arc are found in the Disciplinary Skills and Process Anchor Standards and appear at each grade level. Below is an alignment of each element to the Steps of the process in the **Project Citizen Program: Level 1**.

### **Inquiry Element 1: Developing Compelling Questions**

Central to a rich social studies experience is the capability for developing questions that can frame and advance inquiry. Those questions come in two forms: compelling and supporting questions. Compelling questions focus on enduring issues and concerns.

- *Project Citizen – Step 3: Identifying Public Policy Problems in Your Community*
- *Project Citizen – Step 4: Selecting a Problem for Your Class to Study*
- *Project Citizen - Step 5: Gathering Information on the Problem You Will Study*
- *Project Citizen – Step 6: Preparing to Develop a Portfolio to Present Your Research (Task Three: Proposing a Public Policy; Task Four: Developing an Action Plan)*

### **Inquiry Element 2: Constructing Supporting Questions**

Supporting questions focus on descriptions, definitions, and processes on which there is general agreement within the social studies disciplines and require students to construct explanations that advance claims of understanding in response.

- *Project Citizen – Step 3: Identifying Public Policy Problems in Your Community*
- *Project Citizen – Step 4: Selecting a Problem for Your Class to Study*
- *Project Citizen – Step 5: Gathering Information on the Problem You Will Study*

- *Project Citizen – Step 6: Preparing to Develop a Portfolio to Present Your Research (Task One – Explaining the Problem; Task Two – Examining Alternative Policies; Task Three – Proposing a Public Policy; Task Four – Developing an Action Plan)*

### **Inquiry Element 3: Gathering and Evaluating Sources**

Students, whether they are constructing opinions, explanations, or arguments, gather information from a variety of sources and evaluate the relevance of the information. In evaluating these sources there are literacy skills, such as identifying an author's purpose, main idea, and point of view, that will help in evaluating the usefulness of a source.

- *Project Citizen – Step 3: Identifying Public Policy Problems in Your Community*
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### **Inquiry Element 4: Developing Claims**

Once students analyze information, they need to develop claims and counterclaims to answer social studies questions. Evidence is used to support these claims.

- *Project Citizen – Step 3: Identifying Public Policy Problems in Your Community*
- *Project Citizen – Step 6: Preparing to Develop a Portfolio to Present Your Research (Task One – Explaining the Problem; Task Three – Proposing a Public Policy; Task Four – Developing an Action Plan)*

### **Inquiry Element 5: Communicating Conclusions**

Students formalize their arguments and explanations and communicate their results through various products to a wide range of audiences. Students also have the opportunity to critique their scholarship as well as the scholarship of others.

- *Project Citizen – Step 4: Selecting a Problem for Your Class to Study*
- *Project Citizen – Step 7: Developing a Portfolio to Present Your Research (Task One – Explaining the Problem; Task Two – Examining Alternative Policies; Task Three – Proposing a Public Policy; Task Four – Developing an Action Plan)*
- *Project Citizen – Step 8: Presenting Your Portfolio*
- *Project Citizen – Step 9: Reflecting on Your Learning Experience*

### **Inquiry Element 6: Taking Informed Action**

To prepare students for civic life, students use their disciplinary knowledge, skills, and perspectives to inquire about problems involved in public issues, deliberate with others on how to define and address these issues, take constructive and collaborative action, and reflect on that action.

- *Project Citizen – Steps 1 through 9*

*All steps in the Project Citizen program lead to students taking informed action to better their communities, from learning about the responsibilities of citizens to be active members of their*

*communities through creating a public policy and action plan to get it implemented, and finally reflecting on the process. This inquiry element summarizes the purpose of Project Citizen.*