



## Project Citizen Arizona Public Policy or Community Service?

Project Citizen portfolios must identify and address a public policy problem. Portfolio evaluators at District, State, and National Showcases will expect each portfolio to explain how the project involves public policy. Policymaking is identified by public officials taking action on an issue that is currently affecting the public and allocating resources in the best interest of those people within their given area of authority.

### **Public Policy Projects ARE:**

Changes to a written law, ordinance, statute, policy, or regulation affecting a jurisdiction.

### **Public Policy Projects ARE NOT:**

Volunteer projects, donation drives, public awareness, community service.

To help your students learn the distinction, it is often helpful if you help them to make a chart with three categories:

1. Identify one way in which the government affects your life (*Ex: Traffic rules, curfew, tax on food*)
2. What level of government is responsible for this action? (*Ex: Federal, state, local*)
3. What is the Policy? (*Ex: citizens must obey posted speed limits*)

### ***What's the difference?***

<b>PUBLIC POLICY PROJECT</b>	<b><u>NOT</u> PUBLIC POLICY</b>
Students see many traffic accidents outside their school. They notice the speed limit is set at 45 mph. They decide to present their ideas to the city council in the hopes of changing the speed limit to 15mph.	Students see many traffic accidents outside their school. They decide to hold a donation drive and raise money for victims of these accidents.
Students see many refugee families arriving in Arizona from troubled countries. They notice that the families are having difficulty understanding the language on school signs. They petition the school board to change the signs to include more languages.	Students see many refugee families arrive in Arizona from troubled countries. They notice that the families are having difficulty reading the language on school signs. They organize a volunteer group to teach English to the families.
Students notice many of their peers using drugs before school begins. They are concerned due to their knowledge of the unhealthy effects of drugs. They decide to work with the Juvenile Probation Officer at their school to develop more stringent drug policies.	Students notice many of their peers using drugs before school begins. They are concerned due to their knowledge of the unhealthy effects of drugs. They decide to create flyers with the phrase "Drugs kill dreams" and distribute them around campus.
Students are concerned about the number of plastic bottles thrown away at a city park. They decide to petition the city council to install recycling bins at every city park.	Students are concerned about the number of plastic bottles thrown away at a city park. They decide to hold "Clean Our Park" volunteer days every Saturday and clean up the park, bringing the bottles to their home recycling bins.