



# A Call To Civic Action

Scott Warren, Generation Citizen  
Rhode Island

## ☀ Call to Action

Learn more about Scott's work helping to educate young people in basic civics at [generationcitizen.org](http://generationcitizen.org). Check out his book, **Generation Citizen: The Power of Youth in Our Politics**

## ☀ Values

- Civic-Minded
- Citizen
- Leader
- Committed
- Determined
- Informed

## ☀ Lessons Learned

**We need to have an action-oriented approach in order to bring young people into politics.**

**It is important to engage young people through working on issues they care about.**

**Young people hold a great amount of power. It's important to channel and direct it in positive ways.**

## **Scott Warren is an emerging leader in the youth civics and voting rights movements.**

The organization he cofounded, Generation Citizen, works to ensure that every student in the US receives an effective civics education, which provides them with the knowledge and skills necessary to participate in our democracy as active citizens. Scott is also a leading voting rights advocate, fighting to lower the voting age across the country to 16. Scott is the author of a book about his nonprofit work and advocacy, called *Generation Citizen: The Power of Youth in Our Politics*. His work has been featured in *US News and World Report*, *Time Magazine*, the *New York Daily News*, *The Hill*, the *Christian Science Monitor*, the *New York Post*, the *Baltimore Sun*, and *Education Week*, among others.

## ☀ Language Arts

**Do you agree with Scott that the voting age should be lowered to 16 years old?** Why or why not? Write an argumentative essay (no less than 1,000 words), supporting your opinion. You must use at least two secondary sources to support your opinion.

- How would you motivate your friends and family to register to vote? Find out where your polling place is and design an invitation to send to people to motivate them to go and register.

**Build a [Jeopardy game](#)<sup>1</sup> designed to educate young people** on civics, the concept of democracy, and the importance of voting. You can use the template found [here](#).

**Create an Escape Room game.** If you need ideas, here is a good [article](#)<sup>2</sup> to get you started. Use basic civics concepts as your clues, and make sure you increase the level of difficulty as you go. The “escape room” must have at least three rooms, and a minimum of five clues per room.

## STEM Activities

**Lowering the voting age across the country is just one battle that voting advocates face.** In addition to voting eligibility, it is important that voters understand their rights and the liberties extended to them. What are your voting rights? How does the way votes are tallied in the U.S. compare to the voting process in other countries?

**What percentage of the US population is currently being either partially or fully impeded from voting?** Consider the situation for resident aliens, prisoners and former prisoners, and citizens of cities like the District of Columbia, and territories like Puerto Rico. Assess the size of these populations and calculate the total number of citizens that are being disenfranchised. Is it larger or smaller than the number of 16 and 17-year-olds that could be added to voter rolls if the voting age were lowered? Use statistical analysis (mean, median, spread, etc) to analyze the data.

**In addition to advocating for voting rights, students need to understand the policies they are voting for or against when they become eligible to vote.** Research one policy that was voted on during the past election and explain why it is important to you, and how your vote would matter as a part of the election process.

**Generation Citizen seeks to bring civics education back into the classroom in order to teach and inspire youth to participate in politics.** Games can be an engaging way to motivate students to learn more about civics. Visit iCivics and select a few different games to play. Then, to test your own civics knowledge, take the [U.S. Civics test](#)<sup>3</sup> that's given to applicants seeking to become U.S. citizens.

## Sustainability Innovations

**Scott has done amazing work as a part of the voting rights movement.** [Campus Vote](#)<sup>4</sup> and many other great organizations have made it part of their mission to tackle barriers for young voters and help them gain access to the polls. Identify one organization in your community that focuses on advocating for youth voting rights that you would like to collaborate with or volunteer at.

**Create a flyer about the importance of youth voting and prepare a pitch to your school principal** on why the flyers should be distributed throughout the school and supported by the student body government.

## Sustainability Career Pathways

**Civics Educator.** Too few students today graduate with a strong understanding of how government works, and how it can work to make their countries and the world a better place. As Scott's efforts show, an engaged civics education program can do more than just inform; it can also inspire action. Want to be a civics teacher? Explore [Generation Citizen's teacher-led civics education model](#)<sup>5</sup>. Also, seek out a trusted teacher who could help bring civics education to your school, if you don't already have it.

**Nonprofit Manager.** Many people work for nonprofit organizations; some, like Scott, even create new nonprofits. But very few have any formal management training, which is an ongoing problem in this sector. There are programs to train managers for nonprofit organizations specifically. While many of these are masters' level programs (such as these [leading programs](#)<sup>6</sup>), there are also informal and undergraduate opportunities to learn essential management skills. If you're really serious about this path, here's a [500+ page introduction to the field](#)<sup>7</sup>.

**International Governance.** The United Nations and its agencies, for example the UN Environment Programme, play a critical role in creating a more sustainable, more equitable future. Perhaps your career lies in [working for the United Nations](#)<sup>8</sup>? Or in working for one of the many nongovernmental organizations working to address the numerous challenges in international governance?

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1 <https://jeopardylabs.com/>

2 <https://teachingideas.ca/2020/05/17/escape-room-2/>

3 [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/crc/M\\_1778.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/crc/M_1778.pdf)

4 <https://www.campusvoteproject.org/youth-voting-rights>

5 <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/forgotten-purpose-civics-education-public-schools>

6 <https://www.usnews.com/best-graduate-schools/top-public-affairs-schools/nonprofit-management-rankings>

7 <https://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1119585457/stansociinn09-20>

8 <https://careers.un.org/lbw/Home.aspx>

