



RUTGERS

Graduate School of Education

**CIVICALLY ENGAGED
DISTRICTS PROJECT**



Teachers College
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Welcome to Day 1!

Dr. Beth Rubin

Civically Engaged Districts Project 2023-2024

Today's Agenda

8:30 - 8:50 AM	Check In & Continental Breakfast
8:50 - 9:00 AM	Welcome
9:00 - 9:20 AM	Session 1: Welcome to the Civically Engaged Districts Project
9:20 - 9:55 AM	Session 2: Building and Sustaining Community
9:55 AM - 10:05 AM	Break
10:05 - 10:45 AM	Session 3: Selecting a Topic to Investigate
10:45 - 11:45 AM	Session 4: Learning to Research
11:45 AM - 12:15 PM	Lunch
12:15 PM - 1:00 PM	Session 5: Collecting and Analyzing Data
1:00 - 1:30 PM	WRAP Student Presentation & Panel
1:30 - 2:00 PM	Session 6: Communicating Results and Taking Action
2:00 - 2:30 PM	Debrief, Closing & Group Photo

Resources for Today

Educator Resources
in Google Drive



Civically Engaged Districts
Project Website

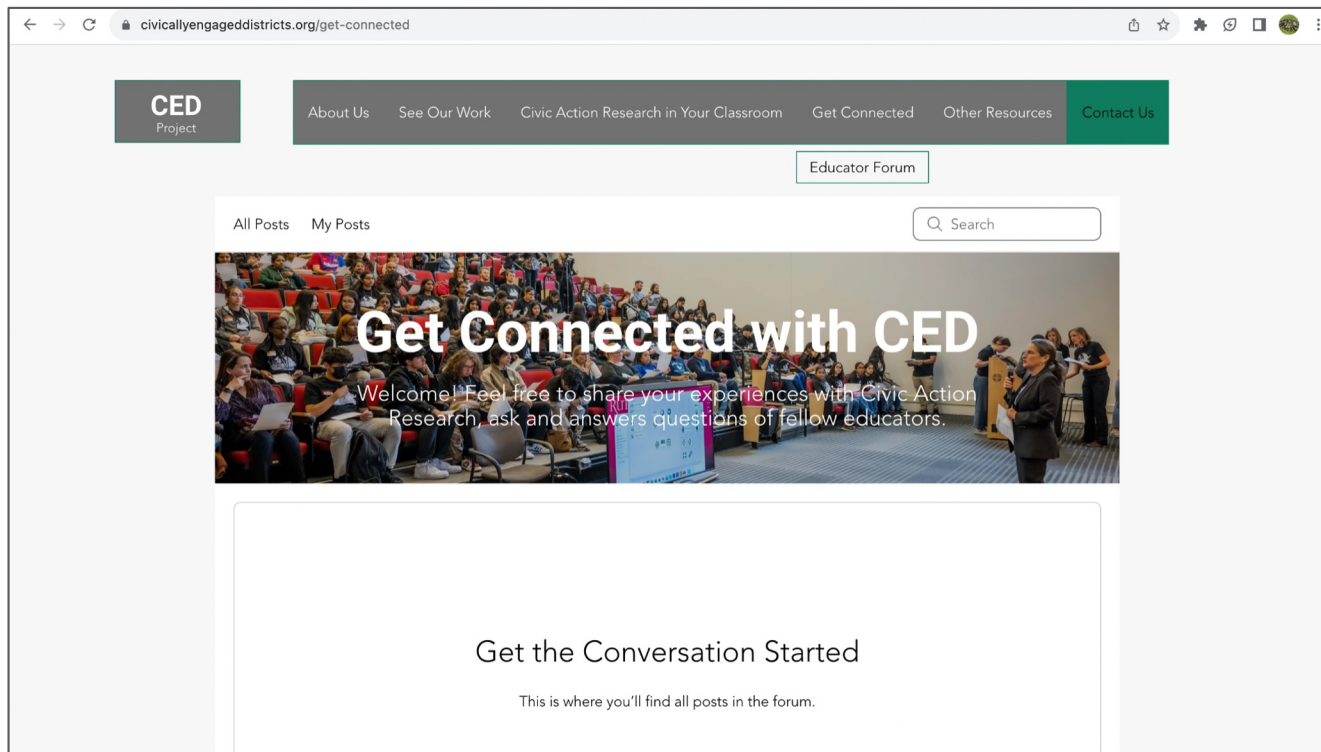


CED Website



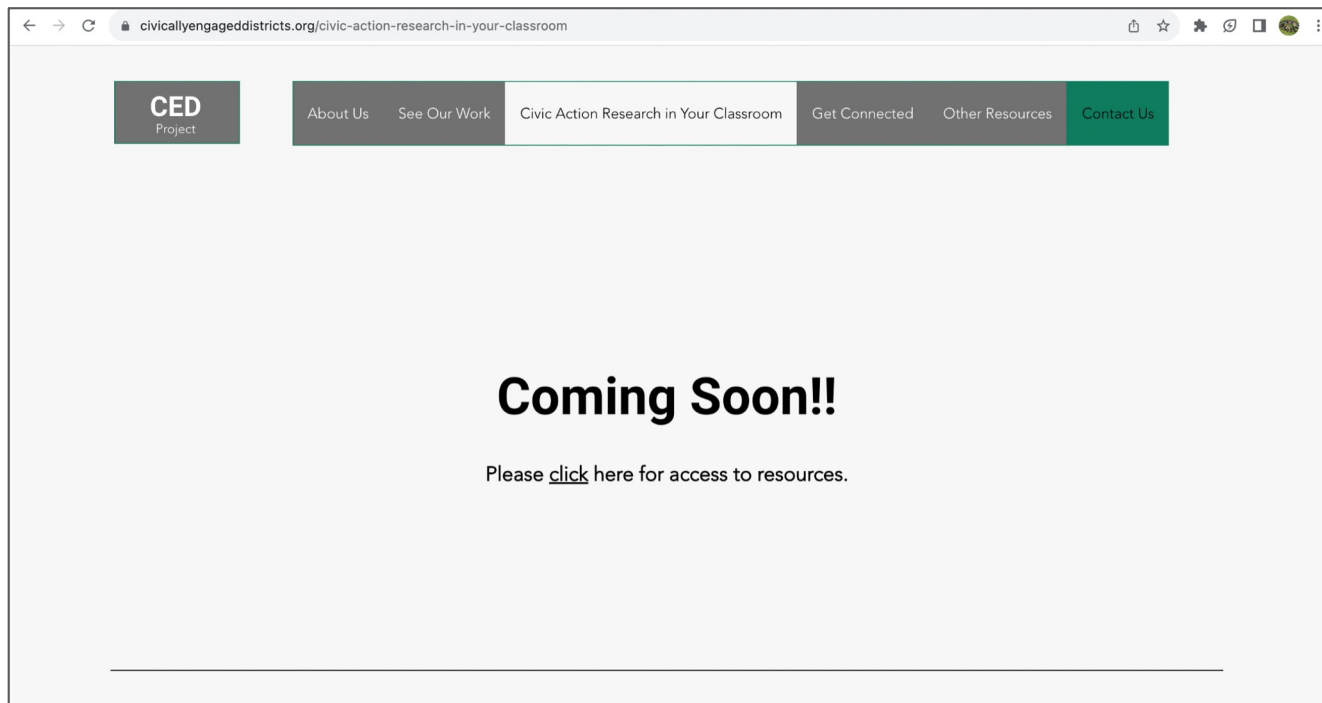
<https://www.civicallyengageddistricts.org/>

Educator Forum



<https://www.civicallyengageddistricts.org/get-connected>

Civic Action Research In Your Classroom



<https://www.civicallyengageddistricts.org/civic-action-research-in-your-classroom>



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The What and Why of Civic Action Research

Dr. Beth Rubin
Dr. Tristan Cox

Civically Engaged Districts Project 2023-2024

Who are we and what are we doing here?

- Introduce yourself to your group.
- What brought you here today?
- Have you participated in the Civically Engaged Districts project previously?

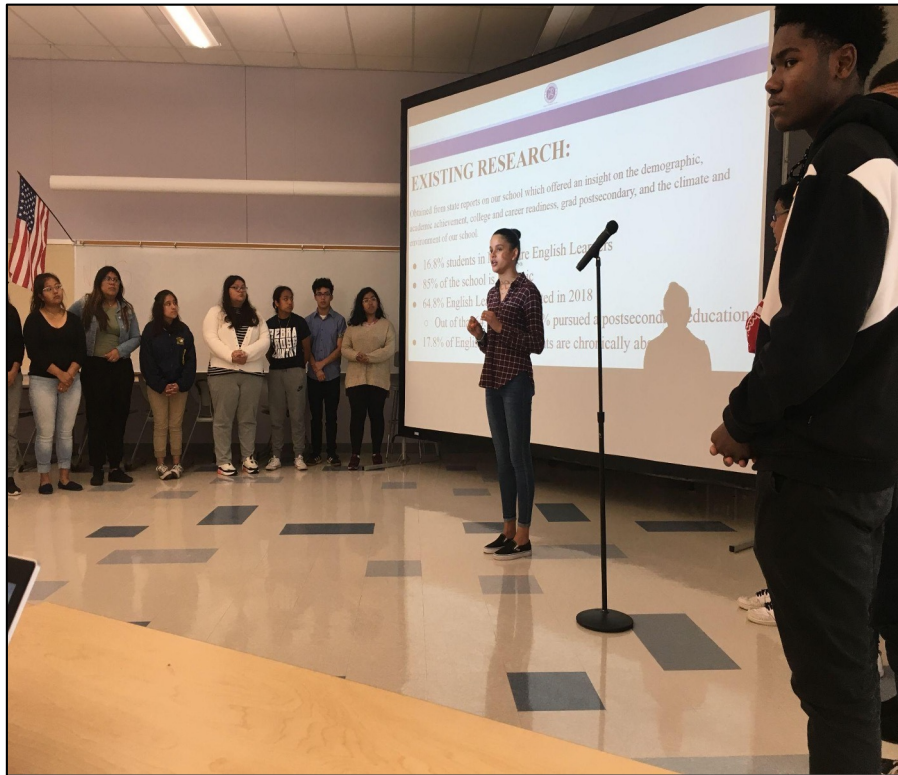
When you hear the term **civic education**, what words come to mind?

Jot these down on the paper that is on your table.

Laura Wooton's Law

"By deepening civics instruction in middle school and high school, we are giving students the tools they need to be more engaged and informed citizens."





The type of civic learning that leads to civic engagement cannot be *given* to students by teachers, by means of lecture or textbook.

Civic learning and engagement develop as young people work together to understand and take action on meaningful civic issues.



Youth Participatory

Action Research

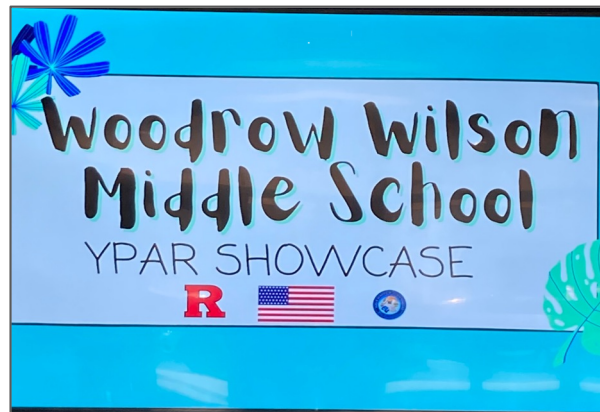
is an approach, rooted in social justice principles, in which young people investigate and take action in order to improve their lives, their communities, and the institutions intended to serve them.

Civic Action Research brings **youth participatory action research** into school classrooms through youth-driven, school and community-focused inquiries that cultivate the thinking and communication skills necessary for civic participation, increase belonging, and help districts become nurturing contexts for civic engagement

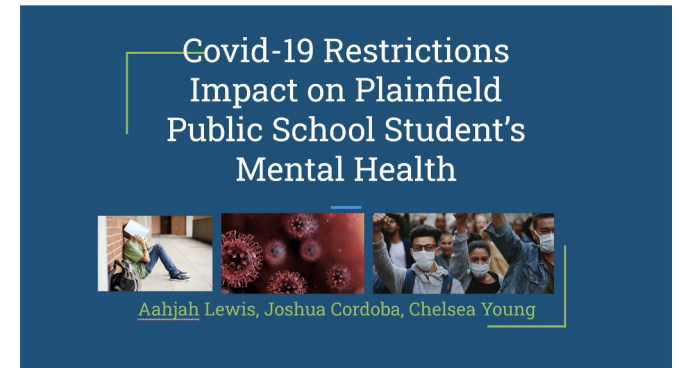
Examples from previous years....



Laura Arredondo, Supervisor
Dafne Perez, Teacher
Hunterdon



Shannon Marasco, Supervisor
Vito Parese, Teacher
Edison



Tristan Cox, Supervisor
Anthony Schimbeno, Teacher
Plainfield

El proceso de Preparación

1. PHOTO WALK

2. VOTACIÓN

3. FORMULAMOS EL TEMA Y LAS PREGUNTAS DE INVESTIGACIÓN

4. ROUND-ROBIN

5. CUESTIONARIO

6. DISTRIBUCIÓN DEL CUESTIONARIO

7. GRÁFICOS/ ANÁLISIS DE RESPUESTAS / SLIDESHOW



Edison Township Public Schools

8th Grade Implementation Across Four Middle Schools



Edison Township Public Schools

8th Grade Implementation Across Four Middle Schools

Year-One Approach to YPAR

- ☒ Impacted approximately 625 students
- Embedded time throughout the year for teacher collaboratively plan
- Building research and presentation skills
September
- Embedding questioning techniques in lessons to encourage eventual topic creation
- Kick-off YPAR project through an engaging “What is activism and where do we see it in the world?”
- Organizing organic groups based on topic
- Facilitating data collection and guiding questions aid students get to a viable “solution”
- Prepare in-house Showcases of Student Learning

Example Project Topics

- Alternate forms of Assessment
- Improving Transportation to Benefit the Students of Edison
- W.R.A.P. Organization: *Women’s Rights Associating with Products*
- Microaggressions in Our School
- Future Freshman Project
- Homelessness and Poverty
- Project Solar Panels
- Earlier Start Time for Middle School
- Inflation: How High Prices Impact Low-Income Families
- Study-Hall/Schedule Changes
- Stress Reduction for Students
- Interactive School Website
- School-Wide Air Conditioning Initiative

Main Take-away: Our students CAN and WANT to do this work, largely because they know it matters.

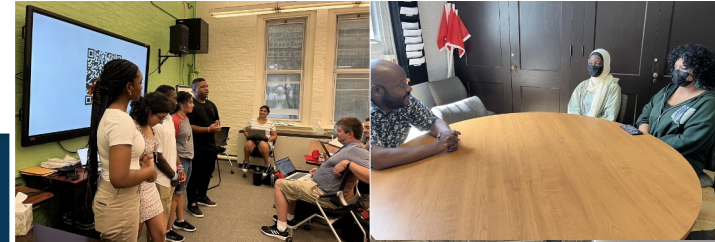
YPAR in Plainfield

Past Projects

- The Experience of High School Aged ELLS at PAAAS
- Air Conditioning and Student Achievement at Plainfield High School
- Adverse Childhood Experiences: Creating Safe Spaces for Students
- Bullying in Plainfield
- Do We Need School Uniforms
- Environmental Concerns

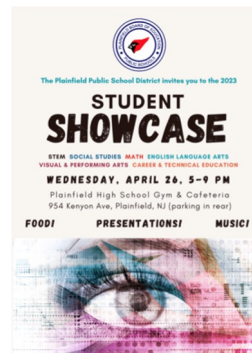
Student Experiences/YPAR Connections

- Plainfield Students Raise the Bar with YPAR - Virtual Event
- Creation of our districts annual "Student Showcase"
- Attend Woodbridge Public Schools Student Showcase
- Advising New Superintendent on the experiences of students (PPSD)
- Present @ NJECC Conference at Montclair University
- Teach Teachers how to be
- Produce video (Plainfield Virtual Tour) for New Teacher Orientation
- Meet with Director of Buildings and Grounds to discuss air conditioning in the district

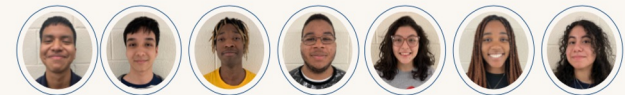


The Experiences of High School Aged ELLS in Plainfield
 Ruben Jose Roman
 Dayvis Ivan Murrailles Merida
 Kevin Raul Martinez Gonzalez
 Frederick Fabrizio Fuentes

Strategies for
Creating Safe Spaces for Students



Youth Advisory Council



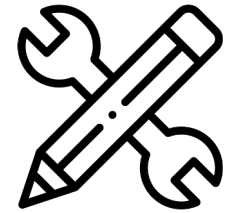
Civic action research projects are....



Relevant



Relational



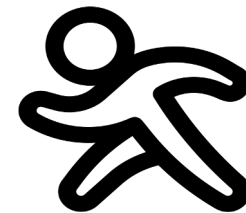
Skill Building



Revelatory



Student
Centered



Active

