# Reflecting on Project Citizen

Your class will work in four groups. Each group should discuss and record its responses to two of the following questions (e.g., Group 1: questions 1 and 2; Group 2: questions 3 and 4, etc.). Each group should also answer question 9. After completing your group work, you should share and discuss your responses with the class. The recorded responses of the four groups should be added as part of your documentation section.

1. What purposes of government was your proposed public policy designed to serve?

2. In the chart below are tasks performed in the Project Citizen process. Each of these tasks is an important right and responsibility of democracy. As a member of your community, how did you exercise your rights and responsibilities when fulfilling these tasks?

| Task Performed in the Project Citizen Process | Community Members' Rights and Responsibilities |
|---|---|
| ☐ Discussing public problems with family, peers, and community members | *Example: I exercised freedom of speech while discussing real problems with my community members.* |
| ☐ Developing an engagement plan to advocate for proposed solutions | |
| ☐ Deciding on problems to study through consensus or voting | |
| ☐ Presenting the portfolio to a panel of adults | |
| ☐ Gathering information on the problem from various sources | |
| ☐ Evaluating alternative solutions to a problem | |
| ☐ Checking proposed solutions with constitutional principles | |

3. Which, if any, of the following purposes of government in a democracy would your proposed policy help to fulfill? Explain your answers.
   - ○ Protecting the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property
   - ○ Promoting the common good
   - ○ Promoting justice or fairness, including equal opportunities for all people
   - ○ Providing safety and security

4. What have you learned about how your government is organized and the responsibilities of various government agencies? For example, what agencies at the local, state, or national levels did you find that are responsible for the following:
   - ○ Making laws
   - ○ Carrying out or administering laws
   - ○ Enforcing laws
   - ○ Managing disputes over the application of laws
   - ○ Making sure citizens can see what their government is doing
   - ○ Making sure public officials use fair procedures (due process of law) when they are gathering information and making decisions

5. What responsibilities of public officials in a democracy did you learn about when you were fulfilling the tasks of Project Citizen? For example, what responsibilities of public officials were involved when you asked them
   - ○ for information about the problem you had chosen;
   - ○ who in your government was responsible for dealing with such problems;
   - ○ what their responsibilities were;
   - ○ to listen to your opinions about the problem; and
   - ○ to accept your proposed public policy solution to the problem?

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1. When you gathered information on the problem you selected, you may have found out about groups and organizations in civil society that were also interested in your problem. Answer the following questions:
   - What were the purposes and interests of each of the groups you identified?
   - How did these groups try to monitor and influence government?
   - What advantages do people gain from joining such groups?
   - What role do such groups play in a democracy?

2. The following is a list of some of the fundamental values and principles of democracy. Write which values and principles are related to your public policy project. Use examples from your experience to explain the connection between those values and principles to your project.
   - Values
     - ▷ Individual rights
     - ▷ Life, including quality of life
     - ▷ Liberty or freedom
     - ▷ Justice
     - ▷ Equality
     - ▷ Diversity
     - ▷ Truth
     - ▷ Common good
   - Principles
     - ▷ Classical republicanism
     - ▷ Classical liberalism
     - ▷ Federalism
     - ▷ Popular sovereignty
     - ▷ Representative government

3. The following is a list of citizens' attitudes and character traits that are important in a constitutional democracy. Place a checkmark next to any that were related to the experiences you had in fulfilling the tasks of Project Citizen.
   - ☐ Individual responsibility
   - ☐ Self-discipline/self-governance
   - ☐ Civility
   - ☐ Courage
   - ☐ Respect for the rights of other individuals
   - ☐ Respect for law
   - ☐ Honesty
   - ☐ Open-mindedness
   - ☐ Dissent
   - ☐ Negotiation and compromise
   - ☐ Persistence
   - ☐ Civic-mindedness
   - ☐ Compassion
   - ☐ Patriotism

4. What did you gain from your experiences in fulfilling the tasks of Project Citizen?
   - ○ What skills did you gain or improve?
   - ○ What did you learn about the advantages and disadvantages of working collaboratively?
   - ○ What do you think you did well?
   - ○ What improvements might be helpful if you were to participate in activities like Project Citizen again?