Media Literacy for Adults: Civics

March 10, 2021
About the Classroom

Microphones
Only our presenters have microphone access.

Questions?
Type them in the Q&A box! There will be time at the end for questions.

Tech Issues?
Send a message through Q&A.
Welcome

MEDIA LITERACY EDUCATION IN LIBRARIES FOR ADULT AUDIENCES
A project of the American Library Association

Media Literacy Education in Libraries for Adult Audiences is made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant LG-13-19-0089-19.
About the Project

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A project of the American Library Association

PROGRAMMING Librarian
An initiative of the American Library Association Public Programs Office
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Boston, MA
Media Literacy in the Library: A Guide for Practitioners

Civics

Laura Saunders
Simmons University
Agenda

• What is Civics?
• Why talk about it?
• How should we talk about it?
What is civics?

Merriam-Webster: Dealing with the rights and duties of citizens.
Participative Democracy

- Rights
  - Speech
  - Assembly
  - Pursuit of happiness (health, etc.)
  - Voting
Right to Information

An ancillary right

- Supports responsible exercise

Codified in

- Article 19
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
- Freedom of the Press
With Rights Comes Responsibilities:
Ethical and informed exercise of rights
WHY TALK ABOUT CIVICS?
Role of the Library

- Facilitate access

Facilitate

Promote information literacy

Encourage civic engagement and discussion
### Role of the Library

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Big ideas
News Deserts
Marketplace of Ideas
Safe Spaces
Civility
HOW DO WE TALK ABOUT CIVICS?

Program Ideas
Responsibilities of the Library

- Limited public forum
- Accountability
- Public Trust
Sample Discussion Questions

• What motivates us to vote or participate in politics in other ways?
• What kind of information do we need to make good decisions about (insert topic: voting in this election, supporting this ballot initiative, etc.)? Why is that kind of information important? How can we find that information?
• How do we talk to people who disagree with us in constructive ways? What do we do when we just cannot agree?
• Have you experienced the impacts of political polarization? How so? What steps can we take to address polarization?

• (Adapted from the Living Room Conversations—Polarization)
Register Now!

- April 7: Media Landscape and Economics
- April 14: Media Engagement and Creation

Free registration at [programminglibrarian.org/medialiteracy](http://programminglibrarian.org/medialiteracy)