Civics – Culminating Activity

This project is worth 30% of your final grade and brings together everything we have been talking about this semester. Choose a topic that you’re really passionate so that the assignment is applicable to you.



Craig Kielburger was an average 12 year old living in Toronto when he first heard about child labour around the world. He decided to take action and began “Free the Children”. What started as a group of 20 students in Toronto became a global enterprise with over 2 million kids involved. He proves that anyone can be an active citizen and make a difference. Now is your chance to begin something small about an issue that is important to you.

Choose an issue you feel passionate about and want to change in your community, or our country.

You will:

1. Do some research on your issue
2. Create a poster to raise awareness about your issue
3. Write a letter to your local MP about the change you want to see
4. Reflect on what it means to be an active citizen

**Part 1 – Research your topic**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Issue: | Rational (why you think this is important): | |
| Research all that apply to your issue: | | |
| Laws that already exist about this: | | Who is in charge of these laws? (municipal government, provincial government, or federal government): |
| Who would also care about this issue (What groups of people in the community are you targeting? Who could help you raise awareness?) | | |
| What you could do about it to raise awareness (Look at what other protesters and activists have done. Consider social media and how people get information today) | | |

**Part 2 – Create a poster 10%**

Using google.wrdsb.ca 🡪 google drawing, create a poster to raise awareness about your issue.

Your poster must include:

* A title that tells your reader what your issue is
* 3 thing you want changed and/or 3 reasons why this needs to be changed
* 3 pictures that reflect your issue
* A call to action – what you want people to do (attend a meeting, sign a petition, join a facebook group, join a protest…)

**Part 3 – Write a letter to your local MP 15%**

Using google.wrdsb.ca 🡪 google docs, write a letter to your local MP

Your letter should look like this:

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| --- |
| Your Name Your Street Address City, Province Postal Code  Date  Name of MP  House of Commons Parliament Buildings Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0A6  Dear [name of MP];  As a citizen living in your riding, I am writing to express my concern with the proposed changes to Internet billing. It is my belief that usage-based billing will have a negative effect not only on individual citizens, but also on the future of online discourse in Canada in general.  Big telecommunication companies’ desire to impose usage-based billing on independent Internet services providers is clearly and simply an effort to increase their own revenues. They seem to show no concern for the open and affordable Internet.  It is my suggestion that you adopt a firm position against usage-based billing and that you make a responsible decision as to whether the government acts in the interest of the its citizens or in the interest of big corporations.  Thank you for your time and consideration.  Sincerely,  Your Name and Signature |

Your letter must include:

* Proper formatting (as seen above)
* At least 3 paragraphs (use the information in your research chart)
  + Paragraph 1 – introduce the issue and the reason you want it changed
  + Paragraph 2 – talk about some of the problems in detail
  + Paragraph 3 – tell them what you want them to do and why they should be concerned

**Part 4 – Reflect on what it means to be an active citizen 5%**

Answer the following questions in at least 5 sentences each:

Why is it important to be an active citizen? Include at least 3 reasons.

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How could you be a more active citizen in the future? Include at least 3 specific ways.

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Reflection Rubric:

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| Learning Goal | Success Criteria | Level and Comments |
| -clearly explains why it’s important for people to engage in civic action  -clearly reflects on how you can use these skills in the world | -uses specific examples in writing  -clearly explains ideas  -few spelling or grammatical errors  -includes all required components |  |

**Culminating Evaluation Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Poster

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Learning Goal | Success Criteria | Level and Comments |
| -identified ways in which you and others could get involved in this issue | -clear call to action that invites people to get involved in an appropriate and effective way |  |
| -have proposed different reasons or courses of action that could raise awareness about this issue | -3 significant things you want changed and/or reasons why people should get involved |  |
| -communicate ideas clearly on poster | -very few spelling and grammatical errors  -poster is appealing and easy to read  -poster conveys main idea effectively |  |

Letter

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Learning Goal | Success Criteria | Level and Comments |
| -communicates own position on some issues of civic importance | -effectively explains why you think this is an important issue |  |
| -describes civic issues effectively | -clearly and effectively describes what the issue is  -includes specific examples |  |
| -have suggested ways change could be brought about | -suggest things that you want to see changed and how they could be brought about |  |
| -communicate ideas clearly and effectively in letter | -few spelling or grammatical errors  -letter format helps to clearly convey ideas |  |