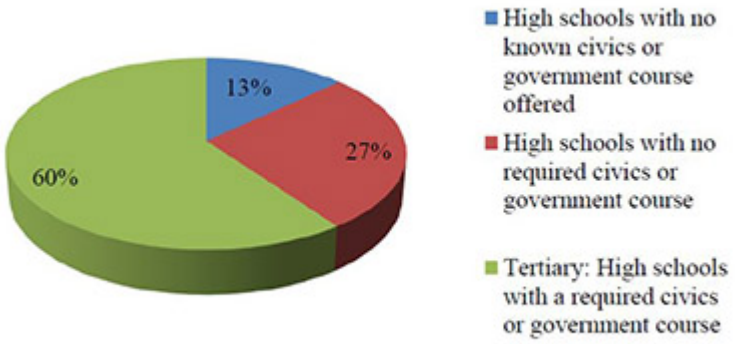
POS 4700 – Teaching American Politics and Government
Dr. Terri Susan Fine

Teaching Civics in Florida



The purpose of this paper is to develop insights and reflect on views of civics teaching articulated by social studies teachers in Florida within the broader context of views expressed by the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools and Eleanor Roosevelt in her essay, "Good Citizenship: The Purpose of Education".

In this paper you will:

A) Interview a civics teacher in Florida
B) Reflect on the substance of the interview within the context of the six proven practices advanced by the Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools
C) Reflect on the substance of the interview within the context of Eleanor Roosevelt's essay "Good Citizenship

Please do the following:

1. Develop a set of 10 open ended questions to ask a middle school civics teacher in Florida (a list of current teachers agreeing to take part in this research effort is found on the last page)
2. Write a 1250-1500 word essay focusing on the interviewee's perspectives on teaching civics in Florida. The interview and essay should incorporate ideas outlined in the six proven practices for effective civic learning and the essay "Good Citizenship"
3. Reflect on your own perspectives on teaching civics in Florida. For example, how might you describe the opportunities and concerns associated with civics teaching in Florida within the context of using middle school civics as a springboard for good citizenship in adulthood?
4. Send an e-mail thanking the teacher for her/his time and effort. E-mail must be copied to terri.fine@ucf.edu

Grading and Evaluation:

Your essay will be graded on content, grammar, punctuation and usage. Be sure to include references to course materials (page numbers from the readings, lectures, documents, and quotes from the interview) in your essay. Also note the word count of your essay. For example, you may report your word count as (WC=#).

Scoring Rubric:

Criteria	**Ratings**				**Total**
Interview question responses are incorporated in essay in a meaningful way. References to, and incorporatio n of, interview material only, are acceptable to fulfill this portion of the assignment.	Strong incorporation 250.0 pts	Moderate incorporation 175.0 pts	Weak incorporation 100.0 pts	No incorporation 0.0 points	250 points
Assigned essay on good citizenship incorporated in essay in a meaningful way.	Strong incorporation (5 or more references/ citations) 100.0 pts	Moderate incorporation (3-4 references/ citations) 50.0 pts	Weak incorporation (0-2 references/ citations) 0.0 pts		100 points
Reflection on six proven practices for civic learning incorporated	Strong incorporation (4 or more practices) 50.0 pts	Weak incorporation (1-3 practices) 25.0 pts	No incorporation (0 practices) 0.0 pts		50 points

in essay in a meaningful way					
Professional presentation/ spelling errors	Fewer than five spelling/grammatical errors 50.0 pts	Fewer than 10 but more than 5 spelling/ grammatical errors 30.0 pts	More than 10 spelling/ grammatical errors 0.0 pts		50 points
Word Count	Word count included 10 points	Word count not included 0 points			10 points
Essay assigned length	Essay assigned length 30 points	Essay 5% shorter or longer than assigned length 0 points			30 points
Thank-you note sent by deadline and copied to instructor	Thank you note sent 10 points	Thank you note not sent 0 points			10 points
					500 points

Submitting your work:

Post your essay to the "Teaching Civics in Florida" Assignment as an attachment in MS Word. Essays submitted using any other word processing program, or submitted as a “copy and paste” to the module window, will not be evaluated.

Civics Teacher Name	**E-mail Contact**
Ms. Robin Brandon	Robin.brandon@myoneclay.net
Mr. Scott Hottenstein	Scott.hottenstein@sdhc.k12.fl.us
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Ms. Maryam Owen	Maryam.owen@myoneclay.net
Mr. Cory Stone	Cory.stone@myoneclay.net
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Ms. Lori Taylor	Lori.taylor@myoneclay.net
Ms. Kelly Watt	Kelly.watt@myoneclay.net