[**Session 1-Controversial Issues, Civil Discourse**](https://youtu.be/Kv69xpqzwpE)

09/17/2020

This webinar features Dr. Diana Hess, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Intended Audience: Virginia and United States Government Teachers, Civics & Economics

Description: Too often teachers avoid topics deemed too controversial for fear their intention will be challenged by parents and administrators. Yet, public problems require deliberation among the “we” to determine the best solutions. Giving time for students to engage controversial issues that are authentic, contemporary and open begins to equip them for the hard work of responsible, informed citizenship in the classroom, the school and the community. Through the purposeful inclusion of controversial issues in the curriculum, teachers can communicate and build the skills needed for civic engagement in a democratic community.

[**Session 2-Build a Stronger Democracy by Teaching Students How to Ask Their Own Questions**](https://youtu.be/z13UnVjlcMQ)

10/01/2020

This webinar features Dan Rothstein and Luz Santana, The Right Question Institute.

Intended Audience: K-12 Teachers

Description: Historians and other professionals rely on their ability to ask questions to generate new discoveries, original analysis, & ensure accountability. The ability to ask one’s own questions is a key skill to thrive in a democracy and is a foundational learning skill. The right and ability to pose questions often lies with those who hold power, more authority or more knowledge. In our vision, the teaching of the skill of question formulation helps students to practice the hard intellectual labor of producing, improving, and strategizing on the use of one’s own questions, thereby creating a new starting point for a stronger and healthier democracy.

[**Session 3-A Republic, If You Can Keep It**](https://youtu.be/lnVWzoqHIJg)

10/15/2020

This webinar features Supreme Court Justice William Mimms, Senator David Marsden, Delegate Roxann Robinson, and Delegate Schuyler Van Valkenburg

Intended Audience: Virginia and United States Government Teachers, Civics & Economics

Description: In a government of checked and balanced power, how can “We the People” make our voices heard? Active citizens exercise their First Amendment rights as they engage government at the local, Virginia and national levels. From the perspective of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, the Virginia General Assembly and a classroom in a suburban high school, a Supreme Court justice, two members of the House of Delegates, a Virginia Senator and a government teacher each promote active citizenship. The future of our democracy requires nothing less.

[**Session 4-We the People: The Crucible of the Constitution**](https://youtu.be/rq-hX8SYgJk)

10/29/2020

This webinar features James Madison from Colonial Williamsburg.

Intended Audience: K-12 Teachers

Description: Discuss the issues and debates surrounding Virginia’s ratification of the U.S. Constitution with James Madison. What were the opposing viewpoints on issues such as factions, race, and voter representation for the franchised and disenfranchised? Participate in a panel discussion on how these enduring controversies create opportunities to explore current issues and design opportunities for debate in the classroom.

[**Session 5-Voters Vote, Pundits Prognosticate: Tackling 2020 election results and their impact on Virginia races in 2021 and beyond.**](https://youtu.be/KL9tvHFort4)

11/12/2020

This webinar features Dr. Bob Holsworth, DecideSmart and Dr. Quentin Kidd, Christopher Newport University.

Intended Audience: Virginia and United States Government Teachers, Civics & Economics

Description: And the people have made their voices heard. But what exactly are they saying? Two of Virginia’s most respected political commentators tackle the 2020 election results and their impact on Virginia electoral races in 2021 and beyond.

[**Session 6-Talking Turkey: Civil Discourse in Age of Covid-19 and Election Results Visually Webinar Video**](https://youtu.be/Tr-Wl-DNlpw)

11/19/2020

This webinar features Meg Heubeck, YLI & the Center for Politics and David Poole, Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP)

Intended Audience: Secondary Social Studies teachers

Description: Build upon skills learned in previous sessions as well as the resources of the Youth Leadership Initiative to improve students’ abilities to discuss controversial topics in the classroom with civility and maturity. Learn to use the First Freedom Wall to share political points of view in a way that promotes discourse, debate, and compromise. Learn about the YLI Anytime Mock Election feature to produce activities that encourage critical debate and compromise. Learn about activities from YLI’s Democracy Corps program to strategize ways to bring local government into the civics classroom and increase discussion of political issues.

You know the election results! You may have even heard about some of the data related to it. Now “see” the story behind those results with resources from the Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP). Learn about the many visual representations related to not only the election but also civic education illustrating the patterns and trends in the elections and state government. Help your students understand the story behind this public data by developing their social studies skills using these resources.