Education for Democracy: CECH
The Citizenship Education Clearing House (CECH)
Government Jeopardy-Q

1. Year MO became a state?_______
2. Name of Missouri’s first Governor __________________________
3. Name of U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled suffrage is not coexistent with right to citizenship as granted in 14th Amendment __________________________________________________________________________
4. Amendment guaranteeing that voting rights can not be denied for failure to pay taxes ____________________________________________
5. Amendment giving 18 year olds the right to vote_________
6. Number of counties in MO (______)
7. Number of State Senators in MO ______
8. Number of State Reps in MO________
9. Name of YOUR MO State Representative___________________
10. Title of office that is an independent “watchdog” agency of Missouri’s public funds _____________________________
Government Jeopardy-A

1. Year MO became a state? (1821)
2. Name of Missouri’s first Governor (Alexander McNair)
3. Name of U.S. Supreme Court case that ruled suffrage is not coexistent with right to citizenship as granted in 14th Amendment (Minor vs. Happersett, 1875)
4. Amendment guaranteeing that voting rights can not be denied for failure to pay taxes (24th Amendment)
5. Amendment giving 18 year olds the right to vote (26th Amendment)
6. Number of counties in MO (114 + 1)
7. Number of State Senators in MO (34)
8. Number of State Reps in MO (163)
9. Name of YOUR MO State Rep (Answers will vary)
10. Title of office that is an independent “watchdog” agency of Missouri’s public funds. (State Auditor)
What is the Citizenship Education Clearing House?

- **CECH** (pronounced “check”), a pioneer in field of civic education, has been teaching students the “political ropes” since the 1960s.

- CECH, a not-for-profit since 1967, became a part of the University of MO-St. Louis College of Education in 1993 when Teresa M. Fischer donated funds to set up an Endowed Professorship of Citizenship Education.

  - **Dr. Wolfgang Althof**, joined UMSL in 2005 as the 3rd Teresa M. Fischer Endowed Professor of Citizenship Education and Director of CECH. He is also the Co-Director of UMSL’s Center for Character and Citizenship

  - **Sandy Diamond**, M.Ed., is the Program Coordinator for CECH’s two citizenship education programs
CECH Programs

- Historically, CECH’s programs have targeted middle and high school students. The goal—to provide a real-life experience in the political process, with the expectation that “learning the system” will encourage them to become active participants. (In other words, Make the Textbook “come alive!!!”

- In 2013, CECH piloted a local government program for 3rd graders.

- Currently, CECH administers two civic education programs to educators
  - **Kids Voting Missouri** – is a non-partisan voter education program aimed at getting youth to become active, engaged citizens; focus is on the importance of becoming an informed citizen, i.e., one that registers and votes to sustain a democracy. More than 230,000 K-12th grade students will have an opportunity to vote in the 2016 Presidential elections
  - **MY LOGO** – Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government
What Is Kids Voting?

- Kids Voting USA is a national non-profit, non-partisan program in which students in grades K-12 study portions of Kids Voting USA’s special Citizenship Activities Guide and then go to Kids Voting polls on or near Election Day to cast ballots on the same candidates and issues as the adult voters.

- KVMO is an affiliate of KVUSA & is administered at the University of MO-St. Louis through its Citizenship Education Clearing House led by Dr. Wolfgang Althof.

- Sandy Diamond, M.Ed, Program Coordinator, retired in Dec. 2013, but returned in early 2014 to coordinate the program on a part-time basis.

- KVMO currently serves the counties of St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, Franklin, Warren, Lincoln, and the City of St. Louis)
Kids Voting MO

- Develop lifetime voting habits in young people
- Promote an educated, engaged citizenry
- Provide skills, dispositions, and strategies for youth to become informed and active citizens
MISSION-KIDS VOTING MO

- Develop lifetime voting habits in young people and help them to become active civic participants as adults
- Promote an educated, engaged citizenry
- Provide skills and strategies for youth to become informed & active citizens

Note: In the recent Missouri Civic Health Index, Kids Voting Missouri was cited as a best practice for time-limited curriculum aimed at youth voter education. (see page 26 of the 2014 Missouri Civic Health Index.)
Voting By E-Ballot

- Prior to 2010, KVMO participants voted using optical scan ballots
- In 2010, Kids Voting Missouri joined other Kids Voting USA affiliates and helped pilot “Doubleclick Democracy.”
- Doubleclick Democracy is Kids Voting USA’s on-line voting system for youth voting
  - Prior to voting, students engage in a special voter registration lesson and learn about the candidates & issues
  - All schools have a special voter ID and log on number to access their ballot.
  - Then, by just the click of a mouse, students vote for most of the same candidates and issues as adult voters.
Why Is Voting Important?

- Voting is a great way to
  - Voice one’s opinion about who should lead our country, state, and city
  - Tell people how you feel about an issue
  - Practice being an engaged citizen
  - Participate in the democratic process
Who Gets To Vote?

In America,

**ONLY** those people who are U.S. Citizens, 18 years & older, and who have registered or signed up ahead of time, can vote...

*Should felons have the right to vote?*

Only about ½ of all Americans sign up or register to vote & only ½ of these people actually vote.*

***What would you say to encourage someone to register & vote?***

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### Missouri’s Official Deadlines to Register for 2016 Elections:

- **Election Day: March 15, 2016 (Pres Primary)** -- Reg. Deadline is Wed., 2/17/16
- **Election Day: Aug. 2nd (MO Primary)** -- Reg. Deadline is: Wed., 7/6/16
- **Election Day: Nov. 8th (General Election)** -- Reg. Deadline is: Wed., 10/12/16
Voting By Age...
Presidential Elections

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<td>67.6%</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>69.43%</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Which of these matters the most when deciding whom to vote for?

1. **Character...** Which person can I trust the most?
2. **Qualifications...** What education and/or abilities does this person have that would be helpful in the office they are seeking?
3. **Experience...** What skill does the person have that would help them lead our state or country?
4. **Personality...** Will this person be able to get people to do things?
5. **Values...** Does this person share my way of thinking?
6. **Leadership Skills...** They do the right thing & get others to follow them.
7. **What Others Think ...** I want to vote the way my friends vote.
Getting Ready for 2016

• Integrate Kids Voting USA activities and other lessons into Social Studies and Language Arts curriculums

• Help teachers to become media literate
  • Stay informed via news sources
  • Critically analyze/evaluate news, ads, other written info

• Use info from LWV, i.e., Voters Guide to help prepare students for election

• Work with County Election Boards
2016 KVMO Ballot Options

**Offices on Missouri Ballot**
- President/VP
- U.S. Senate
- U.S. Congress
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- MO Secretary of State
- MO Attorney General
- MO State Treasurer
- State Representative
- State Senator (odd)
- County Offices
- St. Louis City Offices
- Judges-non-partisan court plan

**Possible Ballot Issues**
- Allow convicted felons the right to vote
- Eliminate Term Limits for the General Assembly
- Increase the Minimum Wage to $9 per hour, with $1 increases each year until 2020
- Change eligibility of State Senators from 30 years of age to 27 and State Rep. from 24 years of age to 21
- Require a Photo ID to vote
- Various local issues
“Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government”
What is **MY LOGO?** An innovative approach to teaching students about local government and involving them in real community problem solving.

Our roads have **lots** of pot holes; how can we get them fixed?

Should our city mandate that all police wear body cameras?

We want to build a skate park...whom should we talk to?

How can we get more people to visit our city and bring in more money?

How can we get our school & city to go “green?”

Should our city allow residents to own/raise chickens?

Should our city ban the use of cell phones while driving?

Should MO legalize Medical Marijuana?
Goals of MY LOGO…

1. Teach/involve students in local government (civic engagement)
2. Provide opportunity to meet local government officials
3. Offer chance to research & discuss local government & community problems
4. Make available excellent lessons via the Local Government Activities Handbook
5. Incorporate high level thinking skills (analyze, evaluate, create) into activities, research, & projects
6. Give students hands-on, field experience type learning opportunities—make the textbook come alive!
Why “MY LOGO”? 

• **MY LOGO was created to:**
  
  - Demonstrate **THERE IS** a 3rd level of government (Federal, state, & LOCAL)
  
  - Get students to see the role local government plays in their everyday lives
  
  - Provide tools to encourage students to become community problem solvers & active, engaged citizens

  ➨ What is a public policy issue?
  
  ➨ Who can I talk to about this issue?
  
  ➨ How can I get this issue resolved?
MY LOGO PROGRAM OPTIONS

• Curriculum Guide
• Website
• Local Government Classroom Speakers
• Site Visits
• Local Government Spring Projects Fairs
• Local Government Issues Forums
• Service Learning Activities
• Local Gov’t. Awareness Day
• Team Teach for Local Government

George Liyeos, City Manager of Rock Hill, speaking to a group of Normandy students.

Webster Groves, Mayor, Gerry Welch and other officials as part of a Town Hall Meeting with students in May.
Tools to Integrate Local Government Education into Classroom Learning...
Tool #1… City Officials as Classroom Speakers &/or Resource Persons

(L-R) Dianna Wright, Former City Manager, City of Wentzville 8th grade teacher, Janel Cox, & Wentzville Police Chief & Police Officer
Creve Coeur City Planner speaks to students about city development & how students might build a greenhouse on school grounds

(Above)

Assistant Hazelwood City Manager discusses why MO Bottom road isn’t completed

(Left)

St. Louis County Executive, Charlie A. Dooley, speaks to students about county government at Spring Projects Fair
Tool #2: MY LOGO Handbook

Overview

✓ A Brief Overview of Missouri Local Government
✓ Approaches to Involving Students in Local Government

Unit One: County Government

Unit Two: Municipal Government

Unit Three: Special Purpose Governments

Unit Four: Local Government Financing

Unit Five: Planning and Zoning

Unit Seven: Discovering Community History

Unit Six: Exploring Your Community

Unit Eight: Analyzing Issues in Your Community

Appendix
Tool #3: WEBSITE (Improved!)

THE CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION CLEARING HOUSE (CECH)

A pioneer in civic education, the Citizenship Education Clearing House (CECH—pronounced "check") has been conducting programs in citizenship education since the late 1960s. From the beginning, CECH programs have sought to integrate participatory citizenship education into the curricula of middle and high schools and to facilitate the development and implementation of student-initiated action projects. Wolfgang Althof is the Executive Director of CECH, which is now under the umbrella of the CCC. Currently, CECH runs two programs: Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government (MY LOGO) and Kids Voting Missouri. Sandy Diamond is the program coordinator for both initiatives.
Tool #4...Site Visits...Local Court House, City Hall, City Vehicles

- County Court House, Clayton, MO
- City of Rock Hill
- City of Webster Groves
- City of Cottleville

Education for Democracy: CECH
Tool #5...Mock City Council Meeting
Tool #6... Local Government Student Projects

* Teach * Study * Learn
* Research
* Work With Local Government Officials
* Identify Local Community Problems
* Create Action Plan to Solve Community Problems
* Present Action Plan at a Local Government Student Projects Fair

Some Examples
PROJECTS

Planning for a new Community Center

Students propose local ordinance requiring bicycle helmets to be worn.

Students work with government officials, business leaders, and members of their community to develop a skate board park!
More Local Government Projects

Hazelwood East Middle School Project

Hazelwood SE Middle School Project

Pattonville Traditional & GREEN (Green Recommendations Empowering Everyone Now!)

Assistant City Manager of Hazelwood, Bob Frank, working with Hazelwood West Middle students on why the Missouri Bottom Road was not completed.

Education for Democracy: CECH
The Presidential Debates...
1. How have candidates’ campaigns changed over time?
2. Why do you think candidates in the 19th Century tended to avoid direct personal involvement in day-to-day campaigning?
3. Why were the Lincoln-Douglas Debates important at the time? What effect did they have on future presidential debates?
4. What effect did the Kennedy-Nixon debate have on the 1960 election? Future Debates?
5. How do you think the Internet [or social media] has or will change how presidential debates are conducted?
6. If you were in charge of this year’s Pres. Debates, what format would you design? How would it work? Who would moderate the debate?
7. Are debates still a worthwhile means to judge candidates? Why or why not?

Of the following local government issues, which do you think is the most important for your community? For the Region?
1. Body Cameras for Police
2. Funding for roads
3. Reducing crime in our neighborhoods
4. Adequate funding for schools
5. Obesity problem of youth and young adults
6. Drug problem of youth and young adults
7. Reductions in revenues and impact on local government services, i.e., police, fire, trash
8. Regulating drones
9. Cybersecurity and keeping citizens safe
10. Other…
For More Information

Dr. Wolfgang Althof

Teresa M. Fischer Endowed Professor of Citizenship Education & Director of CECH, & Co-Director of the Center for Character & Citizenship

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Dr. Wolfgang Althof is the Teresa M. Fischer Professor of Citizenship Education at the University of Missouri-St. Louis College of Education. He also serves as Director of CECH (Citizenship Education Clearing House) and is co-director of UMSL’s Center for Character and Citizenship (CCC) located in the College of Education.

He earned his Ph.D. in Education at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and earned a second, higher-level doctorate called "Habilitation" for the field of Educational Sciences at the Carl-von-Ossietzky University of Oldenburg (Germany) in 2002.

Prior to joining UMSL in 2005, Dr. Althof taught university courses and workshops at several universities and other post-secondary institutions in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria, and lectured in many other countries including the United States and Canada. At his former affiliation in Switzerland, Dr. Althof taught courses on more than 20 different topics. He was a Visiting Scholar at the Harvard University Graduate School of Education in 1995-96.

Since the early 1990's, Dr. Althof’s focus has been on moral/character development and citizenship education in school-wide programs called "Just and Caring School Communities" and on their contribution to school and staff development. Several of these schools (in Switzerland, Germany, and Italy) have won awards for these outstanding pedagogical initiatives, including the Pestalozzi Award for Child-friendly Environments, donated by UNICEF Switzerland and other national youth organizations.

Dr. Althof is currently President of AME (The Association for Moral Education). AME is an International Organization that provides an interdisciplinary forum for professionals interested in the moral dimensions of educational theory and practice. The Association is dedicated to fostering communication, cooperation, training, curriculum development, and research that links moral theory with educational practice.
For More Information

Sandy Diamond, M.Ed.
Citizenship Education Program Coordinator

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- MY LOGO (Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government)
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  - 314-516-6823 (office voice mail)
  - 314-712-8040 (cell)
  - sdiamond@umsl.edu
  - www.kidsvotingmissouri.org
  - www.kidsvotingusa.org
  - www.cech-up.org
  - https://characterandcitizenship.org/

Since 1999, Sandy has been the Director of Kids Voting Missouri at UMSL. In 2008, Sandy also became Program Director for the MY LOGO—Missouri Youth Engaged in Local Government program.

Prior to that, Sandy served as Newspapers in Education (NIE) Coordinator for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and also taught Civics & Government for the Hazelwood School District.

Diamond has a life-time secondary teaching certificate in social studies and holds degrees in Secondary Education from UMSL (M.Ed.) and University of MO (B.S. Ed.).

In 2010, Sandy received one of the “Spirit of Justice” Awards from the St. Louis Bar Foundation. This followed awards in 2006, where Sandy received the Warren S. Solomon “Civic Virtue Award” from the Missouri Bar and the Program Excellence Award from Kids Voting USA.

Sandy retired from UMSL & CECH in December 2013. Her retirement was “short-lived,” as she immediately rejoined UMSL in January 2014 on a part-time basis. Diamond continues to coordinate Kids Voting Missouri and MY LOGO for CECH.