

*The Center for Communication & Civic Engagement
Inventory of Online Youth Civic Engagement Resources*

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I. Digital Engagement Skills

A. Online Youth Civic Engagement

The Center for Civic Education

The Center for Civic Education of Calabasas, CA is a "nonprofit, nonpartisan educational corporation dedicated to promoting an enlightened and responsible citizenry committed to democratic principles and actively engaged in the practice of democracy in the United States and other countries."

<http://www.civiced.org/index.php>

Peter Levine on Youth Civic Engagement

Here is a summary of the work by Peter Levine on youth civic engagement. Peter is a Rhodes scholar with a doctorate in Philosophy from Oxford University. He has worked for the Tufts Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Education and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

<http://www.peterlevine.ws/youth.htm>

Youth Venture

Youth Venture offers a number of resources to a team of "Venturers" that are inspired to start a business, form civil organizations, or create programs that address social issues. Youth Venture wants to encourage multiplicity of leadership in our country.

http://www.genv.net/en-us/about_Youth_Venture

Do Something

Do Something uses online networking and communication technology in order to make volunteering more engaging for kids. It offers ideas and information about potential causes and organizes programs for service.

<http://www.dosomething.org/>

Netcentric Advocacy

"Advocacy Strategy for the Age of Connectivity:" this web site introduces a number of new digital tools and concepts that the author is studying. The effectiveness of each of these digital tools for advocacy is examined.

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/organizing_guide/

Here is the section on "story telling blog:"

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/2007/05/the_long_sunday.html

Here is the section on "citizen journalism:"

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/2007/05/citizen_journal.html

“Digital Media: The Audience Problem”

March 21st, 2006 entry to Peter Levine's blog, "Digital Media: The Audience Problem." For detail on Levine's blog see entry in "Blogging."

<http://www.peterlevine.ws/mt/archives/000815.html>

Digizen

Digizen prepares the public for a new digital world. They teach “using your online presence to grow and shape your world in a safe, creative way, and inspiring others to do the same.” They primarily offer information on Social Networking and “Cyberbullying.”

<http://www.digizen.org/socialnetworking/>

Digiteen

Digiteen was developed by teacher, Vicki Davis, as a civic engagement project for teenagers. The project has now grown to over 500 members, and offers a safe network, as well as ideas on how to be a digital citizen.

<http://digiteen.ning.com/profiles/members/>

Digital Natives

Here is a wiki on Digital Natives. The research project, started by the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard and the research center for Information Law at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, studies the affects of growing up in a "digital age" as the youth today have.

http://www.digitalnative.org/wiki/Main_Page#What_We.27re_Reading

Puget Sound Off

Puget Sound Off is a social-network for engaged youth in the Puget Sound region. The social network lets you make blogs, post pictures, and create discussions about issues in their community.

<http://www.pugetsoundoff.org/>

Here is a link to PSO's teaching on digital citizenship:

<http://www.pugetsoundoff.org/how-to>

B. Blogging: How to and Where to Blog

“Renewing Civic Engagement”

This is a sample of a blog: In this particular blog Peter Levine is writing about renewing civic engagement. Peter is a Rhodes Scholar with a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University. He has worked for the Tufts Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Education and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/2007/05/the_long_sunday.html

<http://www.peterlevine.ws/mt/>

Wordpress

Wordpress is one of the most actively used open-source blog hosts, and offers a very clean format and easy to build blogs.

<http://wordpress.com/>, <http://wordpress.org/>

Blogger

Blogger is a free blogging tool developed by the Google team, and can operate with your Google account.

<https://www.blogger.com/start>

LiveJournal

LiveJournal advertises itself as an online-journal, a blog, a forum, and a social network. It has a free blog-service you can use, but it also pays a lot of attention to creating a network of LiveJournal members.

<http://www.livejournal.com/>

Digital Storytelling

The Third World Majority is "a new media training and production resource center run by a collective of young women of color" and allies that are striving for social justice. The group holds a three-day digital storytelling workshop.

<http://www.cultureisaweapon.org/cdsm/mainframe.php>

C. Online Social Networking

The Online Conference on Community Organizing

"COMM-ORG" was created to form online social network between academics and activists where they share ideas on the theory and practice of community organizing. The project is supported by the University of Wisconsin Extension on Community and Economic Development.

<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/>

They provide advice on how to create a website and online social network here:

<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/cboweb.htm>

Social Commons

Here are Peter Levine's ideas on the Internet as a social commons as well as links to his resources. Peter is a Rhodes Scholar with a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University. He has worked for the Tufts Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Education and the Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service.

<http://www.peterlevine.ws/Internet%20work.htm>

“Social Networking in Plain English”

This video is offered by CommonCraft and is available for free over Youtube. The video explains on-line and real life social networks.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a_KF7TYKVc

Action Network

Action Network is a web portal that currently connects 500,000 environmental activists over the Internet, and is able to distribute news feeds and information to decision makers at crucial moments.

<http://actionnetwork.org/>

YouthNoise

YouthNoise is a social network empowers youth to “find, explore, and network” around a cause. The social network is organized by “people,” “projects,” and “causes” and provides space to post videos, blogs, and other discussions.

<http://www.youthnoise.com/>

Join the network here:

<http://www.youthnoise.com/reg.php?returnto=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.youthnoise.com%2F>

Taking IT Global

Taking IT Global, or TIG web provides an online community and educational programs primarily for youth (roughly defined as 13-30). Their vision is a world where “youth everywhere [are] actively engaged and connected in shaping a more inclusive, peaceful and sustainable world.”

<http://www.tigweb.org/>

Join the network here:

<http://www.tigweb.org/members/join/?pushpath=www.tigweb.org%252F%253Flogoutr1%253D1823742000>

II. Advocacy Skills

A. Turning a Problem into a Public Issue

Education Action

Education Action is the homepage of Aaron Shultz, associate professor and chair of the Department of Educational Policy and Community Studies at UW Milwaukee. Along with other thoughts on community organizing and education policy, the website offers a free online community organizing course that teaches how to “think like an organizer.”

<http://www.educationaction.org/index.html>

<http://www.educationaction.org/online-organizing-course.html>

The SPIN Project

The SPIN Project strengthens nonprofit social justice organizations, small and large, to communicate effectively for themselves through media services and published research.

<http://www.spinproject.org/>

The group's research is available in multiple formats here:

<http://www.spinproject.org/article.php?list=type&type=9>

Youth Venture

Youth Venture offers a number of resources to a team of "Venturers" that are inspired to start a business, form civil organizations, or create programs that address social issue. Youth Venture wants to encourage multiplicity of leadership in our country.

http://www.genv.net/en-us/about_Youth_Venture

Puget Sound Off

Puget Sound Off is a social-network for engaged youth in the Puget Sound region. The social network lets you make blogs, post pictures, and create discussions about issues in their community.

<http://www.pugetsoundoff.org/>

Here is a link to PSO's advocacy curriculum, which includes a lesson on turning a problem into a public issue:

<http://www.pugetsoundoff.org/how-to>

Online Resources for Advocacy

The website of the Institute for Global Communications offers a wealth of link to advocacy sources.

Founded in 1987, the IGC offers web-hosting services to nonprofit groups, individuals, and small companies. The IGC also provides four progressive online networks: PeaceNet, EcoNet, WomensNet, and AntiRacismNet.

<http://www.igc.org/index.html>

<http://www.igc.org/html/advocacy.html>

B. e-Advocacy Strategy and Assessment

Introduction to Community Organizing

EducationAction offers an online "Introduction to Community Organizing" module. It is not intended to teach specific skills but instead is supposed to teach youth how to "think like an organizer."

<http://www.educationaction.org/online-organizing-course.html>

Netcentric Advocacy Strategy

"Advocacy Strategy for the Age of Connectivity:" The web site introduces a number of new digital tools and concepts that the author is studying. The effectiveness of each of these digital tools for advocacy is examined.

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/organizing_guide/

“The Virtual Activist 2.0”

Here is an entire training specifically for online activism and advocacy. It was prepared by a team at NetAction, a group that does research and education on digital activism, which is then shared over a creative commons.

<http://www.netaction.org/training/>

Beth’s Blog on Social Media

"Beth's Blog" is a blog on how Nonprofits can use social media, including strategy and tactics.

http://beth.typepad.com/beths_blog/

Third World Majority

The Third World Majority is "a new media training and production resource center run by a collective of young women of color" and allies that are striving for social justice. The group runs several programs so that youth can advocate for themselves through digital media.

<http://www.cultureisaweapon.org/programs/mainframe.php> The group also offers specific info on organizing strategy:

<http://www.cultureisaweapon.org/services/orgstrategies.php>

Power Shift Conference

Power Shift 2009 was the largest environmental lobby day in history, organized by the Energy Action Coalition. This is a record on the digital tools being used by the Power Shift conference to organize its 11,000+ youth attendees.

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/organizing_guide/

<http://www.energyactioncoalition.org/>

The Online Conference on Community Organizing

"COMM-ORG" was created to form online social network between academics and activists where they share ideas on the theory and practice of community organizing. The project is supported by the University of Wisconsin Extension on Community and Economic Development.

<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/>

Their advice on how to do online advocacy is here:

<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/cboweb.htm>

III. Networks and Services for a Cause

The Institute for Global Communications

Founded in 1987, the IGC offers web-hosting services to nonprofit groups, individuals, and small companies. They are also looking to offer secure online credit card transaction services for nonprofits. Currently over 250 nonprofits use the IGC host their websites. The IGC also provides four progressive online networks: PeaceNet, EcoNet, WomensNet, and AntiRacismNet.

<http://www.igc.org/index.html>

Project Citizen by the Center for Civic Education

Project Citizen is a program that creates curriculum for students that teaches them "competent and responsible" participation in government. Project Citizen exports these programs all over the country, and also offers educational materials for students and instructors. A limited number are available for free by application.

http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=free_instructional_materials

Funders' Collaborative on Youth Organizing

All the people and organizations that are funding current work by Youth network here.

<http://www.fcyo.org/>

Youth Venture

Youth Venture offers a number of resources to a team of "Venturers" that are inspired to start a business, form civil orgs, or create programs that address social issue. Youth Venture wants to encourage multiplicity of leadership in our country.

http://www.genv.net/en-us/about_Youth_Venture

The On-Line Conference on Community Organizing

"COMM-ORG" was created to form online social network between academics and activists to ideas on the theory and practice of community organizing. The project is supported by the University of Wisconsin Extension on Community and Economic Development. There are a range of free tools available here.

<http://comm-org.wisc.edu/>

Mobilize.org

A network for "educating, empowering, and energizing young people" through civic engagement and political participation.

<http://www.mobilize.org/>

Donor Digital

"DonorDigital is a full-service online fundraising, advocacy, and advertising company". Developed in 1999, they have been managing online programs that build networks over the Internet and concurrently strive for social change.

<http://www.donordigital.com/>

Benton Foundation

"The mission of the Benton Foundation is to articulate a public interest vision for the digital age and to demonstrate the value of communications for solving social problems."

<http://www.benton.org/>

Action Network

Action Network is a web portal that currently connects 500,000 environmental activists over the Internet, and is able to distribute news feeds and information to decision makers at crucial moments.

<http://actionnetwork.org/>

IV. Examples of Youth Engagement

Project Citizen challenged classes of primary and secondary school students from all over the country to make a difference in their community. Local issues were identified by each class and Project Citizen aided in creating campaigns and succeeding. Find success stories from the program here:

http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=pc_policy

Third World Majority is a group of minority women from Oakland, California, trying to produce social change through digital media and storytelling. Here are their stories:

<http://www.cultureisaweapon.org/stories/mainframe.php>

Check out this sample case study by a youth advocacy organization. It is interesting to see how much direction these youth needed to develop their ideas. <http://www.youthadvocacycenter.org/pdf/oyocase.pdf> Power Shift 2009 was the largest environmental lobby day in history. This is a record on the digital tools being used by the Power Shift conference to organize its 11,000+ youth attendees.

http://www.network-centricadvocacy.net/organizing_guide/

Puget Sound Off is a social network for high school students of the Puget Sound region. The network strives to create an environment for raising issues in the community.

<http://www.pugetsoundoff.org/>