

JCI CURRICULUM: UNIT 2: CHAPTER 1 – TAKING CIVIC ACTION
LESSON 2: PATHS OF CIVIC ACTION

LESSON 2: PATHS OF CIVIC ACTION (45 mins)

Goals

For students to:

- Share and deepen what they know about how people take effective civic action
- Talk about themselves as potential agents of change

Materials

- “Five Paths of Civic Action” sheet
- Blackboard/Poster paper

1) Presentation: Five Paths of Civic Action (30 minutes)

- Introduce the focus of the rest of the time that the group will spend together: developing and carrying forward a civic action project.
- Distribute the *Five Paths of Civic Action* sheet. Have the students read over the page individually.
- Write each mode on a separate poster sheet and place around the room. Ask students to write examples of things they have done or have read about that would fit into each of the categories.
- Bring group back together and highlight one or two examples from each.

15 minute version: Ask for examples of each mode and write on the blackboard.

JCI CURRICULUM: UNIT 2: CHAPTER 1 – TAKING CIVIC ACTION LESSON 2: PATHS OF CIVIC ACTION

FIVE PATHS OF CIVIC ACTION

Service

Direct service is hands-on. It's what we usually think of first when we talk about volunteering. Visiting someone who is sick or elderly, tutoring a student, cleaning up a beach, and stocking cans at the food pantry are all examples of meeting someone's needs immediately and directly.

Philanthropy

Philanthropy means giving money to support projects or organizations that address a need or a problem. Philanthropy recognizes that most serious problems in our world cannot be solved by individual service alone. To get beyond good intentions to effective action requires money.

Advocacy

Advocacy uses argument and persuasion to achieve a particular action or change. Often advocacy is directed specifically toward lawmakers or policymakers, to persuade them to pass or implement a particular policy. Advocacy can also aim to educate the general public toward a change in behavior – to stop smoking or to buy fair-trade coffee, for example. Businesses and corporations can be the target for advocacy as well.

Organizing

Organizing is a strategy to pursue justice for the less-powerful by developing a strong, democratic organization whose power comes from the numbers and mutual commitment of its members. Community organizers believe that injustice persists only because the average citizen does not have a powerful organization to participate in that work for his or her interests. Across American cities today, campaigns by workers for a “living wage” are a prime example of organizing.

Social Entrepreneurship

Social entrepreneurs go outside existing organizations to launch a venture for the common good. Social ventures are begun by one person or a small group with a big idea, an innovative strategy, and the dedication of a start-up entrepreneur or team. Some social enterprises are nonprofits. Others are businesses that are focused on a social mission such as training and employing people who are typically poor and unskilled, or creating and selling a product that preserves the environment.

Just

Judaism Action Social Change

**JCI CURRICULUM: UNIT 2: CHAPTER 1 – TAKING CIVIC ACTION
LESSON 2: PATHS OF CIVIC ACTION**