



STATEMENT OF IMPACT

Our form of government is one of those inventions that often look much better in concept than in practice. We see ourselves as a sober, enlightened people who jealously guard the national ideals and voting prerogatives for which our forebears died. We trust that our sound principles and attention to current events will yield good government in the end... We rarely live up to our self-image. There is a consistently large gap between what people need to know and what they actually do know about democracy & how our government functions.

Many think the federal budget is too big, but only want to cut programs that don't benefit them. Some voters think taxes are too high, but don't realize the impact that reductions have on community services. Other voters won't learn the names/platforms of the people running for office. But the greatest detriment to our democracy is the uninformed citizens' perception of powerlessness, which leads to a lack of interest in voting. We have the worst citizen voting record of any democratic society and many of those who vote, vote against their own best interest.

Winning Experiences (WE) provide opportunities for youth and families in urban communities to prepare for policy development discussions and have a "seat at the table" when decisions are made that impact their lives. Our programs impact academic skills necessary for critical thinking, active citizenship, community engagement, a positive work attitude, a healthy attitude about others opinions. We also provide opportunities that enhance written and verbal communication, reading for understanding and transfer, information research, and national standardized test performance. Our participants also develop a positive self-concept, embrace their unique personality, and prepare for healthy, prosperous, and safe interactions in our democratic society.

Our participants complete pre & post civics tests developed by the Center for Civic Education (CCE), Certified Teachers and the Executive Director of Winning Experiences. We also use the Civics Competition Evaluation Forms developed by CCE. Our parents are provided with results of all pre & post civics test, competition evaluation forms, journal entries and access to images/videos captured by Winning Experiences. Parents and/or Guardians are encouraged to travel with us and observe participant performances during the national competition.

WE collaborate with the Center for Civic Education for their WTP curriculum materials and staff training institute, iCivics & the Honorable Sandra D. O'Conner for her computer based civics program, E38 Branch Indianapolis Public Library & The NE Corridor Quality of Life Plan for Book Club materials and program partners, Odom Management Inc. for online job opportunities, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site for the Future President's Camp and a history of U.S. values, the Indianapolis Continued Legal Education Forum for video production training, Ricketts & Associates for the International Youth Forum project, and Old National Bank, 5/3 Bank, & Others for Financial Wellness.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT