

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT VALUE RUBRIC

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Glossary

The definitions that follow were developed to clarify terms and concepts used in this rubric only.

- **Civic identity:** When one sees her or himself as an active participant in society with a strong commitment and responsibility to work with others towards public purposes.
- **Service-learning class:** A course-based educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity and reflect on the experience in such a way as to gain further understanding of course content, a broader appreciation of the discipline, and an enhanced sense of personal values and civic responsibility.
- **Communication skills:** Listening, deliberation, negotiation, consensus building, and productive use of conflict.
- **Civic life:** The public life of the citizen concerned with the affairs of the community and nation as contrasted with private or personal life, which is devoted to the pursuit of private and personal interests.
- **Politics:** A process by which a group of people, whose opinions or interests might be divergent, reach collective decisions that are generally regarded as binding on the group and enforced as common policy. Political life enables people to accomplish goals they could not realize as individuals. Politics necessarily arises whenever groups of people live together, since they must always reach collective decisions of one kind or another.
- **Government:** “The formal institutions of a society with the authority to make and implement binding decisions about such matters as the distribution of resources, allocation of benefits and burdens, and the management of conflicts” (Retrieved from the Center for Civic Engagement website, May 5, 2009)
- **Civic/community contexts:** Organizations, movements, campaigns, a place or locus where people and/or living creatures inhabit, which may be defined by a locality (school, national park, non-profit organization, town, state, nation) or defined by shared identity (i.e., African-Americans, North Carolinians, Americans, the Republican or Democratic Party, refugees, etc.). In addition, contexts for civic engagement may be defined by a variety of approaches intended to benefit a person, group, or community, including community service or volunteer work, academic work.