Impact Outcome Project Proposal

Team 2

The Problem

-> "A study by the University of Pennsylvania also found that 26 percent of people could name the three branches of government in 2016, as opposed to the 31 percent of respondents that could name the three branches in 2011." - Institute for Youth in Policy

-> "High-quality civic studies courses, which emphasize critical thinking about current political events, increased the rate that students talk about current events with their peers by 15%" - Ballard Brief **[you will want to add at least 2 or 3 sources in your action plan that support your claim about the the problem you have identified]**

Many students feel that the education system is not set up to help them become rational, critical adults. The lack of focus on developing rational, students/citizens makes it harder for them to become active and informed citizens in this world. **[this the challenge/problem you want to address; it's also your hypothesis, right?]**

Research Overview: The Problem

- As documented by EdSurge, many students lack all but the barest preparation for civic engagement
- Voter turnout amongst the youth have been low, resulting in older generations being granted disproportional sway in elections
- Many students lack faith in modern day democracy
  - As documented by the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, fewer than half of young adults from 18-24 intended to vote in the 2024 presidential election

Reasons for Change

- Some young people are ready and willing to participate in democracy
  - As reported by EdSurge, a young man by the name of Peter Jefferson has been active in his local state politics, despite not being of voting age yet
- Edutopia highlights four critical points
  - In order to teach democracy, it must be modeled
  - Those most affected by decisions should have a voice
  - Many high school students have insight into the youth that policymakers lack
  - Student participation in decision-making improves student outcomes by making them more invested in their own success
- Students need to be challenged to think critically in order to properly develop into civically-minded adults

Existing Solutions

- Civic engagement programs
    - Project Citizen
    - We the People
    - After-School Opportunities/Orgs
        - **[have these types of programs been effective in addressing your challenge? Why or why not?]**

- AZ Civics Test
    - In order to graduate with a high school diploma in AZ, you need to successfully complete the AZ Civics Test; 60% or higher is passing
        - **[same question - has this been an effective incentive for addressing your challenge? Why or why not?]**

Our Solution (Project Proposal)

[you will also want to include some research that supports your solution, e.g., student voice, structuring classrooms around inquiry, critical thinking; providing structures for kids to engage in democratic decision making]

- Survey
  - Sent out to students, faculty, and administrators to collect sample information(age, school, location) and to pose a mix of open ended, scaled, and box check questions to assess level of civic preparedness. **[consider limiting this to students; also consider doing a focus group, and including the survey with that as an expedient way to document their responses - Cielo mentioned the idea of a Q&A with students in her design CB. See also note under action plan, next slide];**

- Workshops/resource Packets **[for the purposes of the course, consider making this a part of a 'next steps' part of your action plan - see next slide]**
  - With the information gathered from the survey, we will tease an outline of a potential workshop and sources that would be implemented to address questions and topics that the survey favoured.

- Action plan/policy brief **[this is a good structure for your action plan]**
  - An outline of our plan including
    - Introduction (a summary of the challenge/problem we wish to address)
    - our research into the problem,
    - our solution **[include research citations that support your proposed solutions]**
    - potential problems **[consider 'challenges and limitations' in place of 'problems']**

Action Plan

Phase 1.

- We will start by creating a survey for students, educators, and policymakers to be able to understand the students point of view when it comes to school & civic life
    - **[Will the survey questions help you confirm (or not) your hypothesis? For the purposes of your IO project, who is your audience? Is it practical to survey all of groups you list, or could pilot the survey with students, maybe as part of a focus group? We can discuss in class]**

Phase 2.

- We will write a policy brief describing how to enshrine our project in schools across Arizona using the data
  [is your product really a policy brief? For the scope/purposes of this class, you might want to focus on creating a cogent Action Plan, which, for Phase 3, you could present to district-level decision makers (e.g., superintendent, school board member, as well as a student or two) for feedback. We can discuss this in class

Phase 3.(Hypothetical/Outside Scope of this Class)

- Provide the educators with workshops granting them access to the resources and later outreach to school board members with our findings