



#YALIVotes Course Facilitation Planner: How to Facilitate a #YALILearns Session on

Understanding Elections and Civic Responsibility

Timeline: two-hour event plan with multiple activities and opportunities for future events.

Introductions (2 minutes)

Introduce yourself as an interested YALI Network member who wants to start an important conversation about elections and civic responsibility in your community. Remember to keep it short!

Explain the Structure of the Event (1 minute)

Give participants an agenda to follow for the session. Walk them through what to expect, including interactive activities and outcomes outlined below. Don't forget to explain all directions and activities fully and clearly before you begin.

Ice Breaker (10 minutes)

Note: Watch out, these can take a long time if you let everyone introduce themselves!

Suggested Activity: Introduce Yourself in 20 Words or Less

Have participants choose a partner and have each person introduce themselves in 20 words or less by addressing the following points:

- Include your name, where you are from, what are you passionate about, and why you want to solve this problem in your community.
- Repeat this 3 or 5 times. Ring a bell or ask people to switch partners at 1 minute.
- Attendees should now have a good idea of who a few of their fellow participants are, even if they have not been introduced to everyone.

[For more ice breakers, see <http://www.icebreakers.ws/>]

Group Activity: Brainstorm (10 minutes)

Goal: Challenge group to name 10 reasons voting is important to their country.

- Split participants into groups of 3-5 (as appropriate for event size)
- Give 5 minutes for brainstorming
- Have one or two people from each group present their ideas to the whole group

Brief group discussion to summarize activity (5 minutes)

- Did most groups come up with the same 10 reasons?
- What were the most unique examples presented?

Watch Lesson #1: Getting the Most From Your Vote (7 minutes)

Find the lesson at yali.state.gov/courses/elections/



Group Discussion (15 minutes)

Discuss the examples from the group brainstorm on why voting is important. Compare to the content presented in the video.

- What was similar or different?
- What was surprising?

Watch Lesson #2: Grassroots Organizing For Civic Engagement (7 minutes)

Find the lesson at yali.state.gov/courses/elections/

Group Discussion (30 minutes)

Participants split back into groups and are assigned an issue around which they will outline a grassroots campaign for their community. Facilitators will assign a topic for each group. Each group outlines:

- What are the steps you would need to follow to launch this campaign?
- Who would you identify as your initial supporters?
- How would you build capacity for your campaign?

(Each group has 20 minutes to work and then 10 minutes for each group to report)

Break, if needed (5 minutes)

If time permits: Watch Lesson #3: Engaging with Candidates and Elected Officials (6 minutes) and answer one, if not more, of the following discussion questions

- Lots of people complain about vote buying at election time but it continues to be a problem. Why is this detrimental to free and fair elections and a healthy democracy? What are your ideas for reducing or eliminating this problem? How can you convince people that this short term gain can lead to long term problems, like corruption?
- Think about the reasons people organize grassroots campaigns. What are the kinds of issues that inspire a collection of people to organize around a single idea or purpose? What issues are facing your community that could be helped by a grassroots campaign?
- Discuss how candidates for election can be held accountable for their campaign pledges after the election is over. Think about ways to stay engaged with a candidate and how to encourage the participation of important constituencies when an elected official takes office.

Group Activity: Action Planning (20 minutes)

Break into different pairs or small groups to come up with an action plan for inspiring youth participation in their communities for the upcoming elections (get out the vote) and beyond. Afterward, select a few groups to present their ideas.

Wrap up/Questions (15 minutes)

Quickly reemphasize the core lessons learned and encourage the participants to stay in touch.

- Encourage attendees to take the online course quiz available at yali.state.gov/courses/elections/ to earn a certificate.
- Explain the concept of #YALILearns, ask participants to hold events in their communities, and encourage each of them to work together to help hold each other accountable for carrying out their plan.
- Ask participants to sign up for the YALI Network at yali.state.gov
- Plan to hold a follow-up #YALILearns session to help facilitate carrying out their action plans together.