

EDUCATING STUDENTS FOR DEMOCRACY

Program Application Packet

1999-2000 School Year Seminar Series
Chicago, Illinois

*This is a program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
It is supported by grants from the GATX Corporation, Learn and Serve America, the Polk Bros.
Foundation, the Replogle Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice
and Delinquency Prevention.*



Program Description - Educating Students for Democracy

Educating Students for Democracy combines two programs—**VOICE** for 4th/5th grade students and **Law in My Life** for 7th/8th grade students.

Since 1996 **VOICE** has supplemented 4th and 5th grade social studies and reinforced reading and math skills. Developed and piloted at Addams, Haugan, Murray, Parker, and Sawyer Elementary Schools, **VOICE** incorporates conflict resolution, law-related education, and service learning to help students develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the three branches of government.

For the past 15 years, **Law in My Life** has supplemented 7th and 8th grade social studies developing a deeper understanding of the basic concepts of Justice, Authority, and Responsibility throughout American history with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution.

Both programs involve teams of attorneys to work with the students; a field experience; interactive lessons which emphasize critical thinking, written and oral communication; and projects which contribute to the well-being of the school and highlight quality student work.

Program Benefits

A two year independent evaluation of the **VOICE** program showed that participating students:

- learned more about the U.S. Constitution and government than non-participating students,
- improved their Iowa Test of Basic Skills Scores,
- had a better understanding of how to help others solve problems, and
- had fewer problems with discipline and fighting.

For the past 15 years, teachers in the **Law in My Life** program report that students:

- have an increased interest in and comprehension of the Constitution,
- develop the ability to understand and analyze different points of view, and
- value the close interaction with attorneys and other resource persons.

Program Training Opportunity

CRFC will select 20 teachers to participate from Chicago public schools and up to 10 teachers from outside of Chicago. Teachers participating in the seminar series will receive:

- A five day summer institute (August 2-5)
- Three day-long seminars during the first semester next year (Chicago Public Schools only)
- A \$50 stipend per day for attending summer seminars
- Free registration to Statewide Law-Related Education Conference on October 29th
- A set of lessons
- A team of attorneys for classroom visits (Chicago Public Schools only)
- A class field experience (Chicago Public Schools only)

For further information, call Carolyn Pereira at CRFC (800) 801-9933 x. 204.

Application Procedure

- Complete the Applicant Information and Agreement Forms
- Have the Application Agreement co-signed by your principal
- Include Registration Fee of \$75 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
- Return the Application Packet with payment *ASAP but no later than April 30, 1999*, to:

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago
407 South Dearborn Street
Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119

Applicant Information

All applications must be complete, with payment, in order to be considered. All applicants will be notified regarding acceptance before Memorial Day at which time fees are nonrefundable. Registration fees will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted to the program.

Name _____

Home Address _____

School _____

School Address _____

School Telephone _____ School Fax _____

School Email _____

Home Telephone _____ Home Email _____

1. How many social studies classes will you teach next year? _____
2. What grade will you teach next year? _____
3. Please rate on a scale of one to five (1=not used; 2=rarely; 3=occasionally; 4=frequently; 5=daily)

How often do you use:

- _____ Cooperative Learning?
_____ Peer Mediation?
_____ Service Learning/Community Service?
_____ Outside Resource People/Volunteers?
_____ Performance Assessment?

3. What are **three** things you want your class to know or be able to do as a result of teaching social studies? *(use additional paper if necessary)*

Applicant Agreement

Applicant receives:

- A five day summer institute (August 2-5)
- Three day-long seminars next year (Optional for anyone not in Chicago)
- A \$50 per day stipend for attending the summer seminar hosted by Mayer , Brown, and Platt
- Lunch daily during the summer seminar
- Free registration fee to Statewide Conference on October 29th
- A set of lessons and pre/post tests
- A team of attorneys for classroom visits (Chicago Public Schools only)
- A class field experience (Chicago Public Schools only)

Applicant agrees to:

- Attend the training sessions
- Use the lessons as well as community resource people
- Participate in the evaluation of the project, allow CRFC or consultants to observe and conduct focus group sessions with students, and provide feedback on the project.

Principal agrees to:

- Release the applicant to attend the day-long seminars to be held on regular school days
 - October 29 (for Chicago Public School and Illinois teachers only)
 - November 22 (for Chicago Public School teachers only)
 - March 2 (for Chicago Public School teachers only)
- Work with the teacher to help keep faculty, parents, and community aware of the project;
- Permit CRFC to conduct focus group sessions with students concerning the project;
- Talk with CRFC staff or consultants to help assess the projects' contribution to students' positive academic and social growth..

We agree to the terms stated above for participation in the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago's year-long program "VOICE."

Applicant Signature _____

Principal Signature _____

Date _____