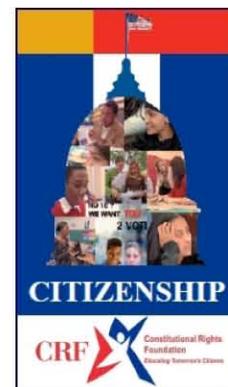


Civic Action

As people work to address problems, they usually have to take a series of civic actions. Rarely does just one action do the trick. Effective citizens start with simple actions and keep trying different things.

You'll use this form over and over again to report on your last civic action and plan your next.

Save this form using the "Save As" command, and give it a new name.
Help is available on the crfcap.org web site in the Student Materials section.



Name: Rebecca - Rocky Mountain High School, Colorado CAP

Date: Oct 10, 2009

What problem, issue, or policy are you working on? Creating awareness of scholarships

What was your last civic action? Describe the outcome(s) and any policy implications. The last civic action that I did was to create a walkthrough of Fastweb.com, Scholarships.com, and two other scholarship sites. I detailed the pros and cons of each, and what each site offers. Overall, I felt that a few were better than others in their approach. These helped me to get a better idea of what to say to Mrs. Takahashi when I meet with her.

Rebecca wrote a great letter to a school counselor. Click here to check it out!

What knowledge, skills, or attitudes of effective citizens did you gain? What did this experience have to do with your government course? I gained the skill of planning through these documents, and the attitude of a teacher, for when I have to present this to the counselors, I will be able to answer many of their questions. As far as relating to my government course, I feel that planning out a high school career helps to decide upon the freedoms one has after high school. My civic action project helps others who want to make a civic action connect with those who need the benefits of a civic action.

Attach evidence of your civic action (photos, agenda, copy of meeting notes, e-mails, URLs of web sites, etc.)

What is your next civic action? Be specific, like "meet with..., write to..., attend..." Next, I will create a formal presentation for the counselors. It will detail the goals of a possible club, and contain walkthroughs of different websites that are crucial in finding scholarships. The purpose of this action is to ready myself and gather my thoughts. I do not wish to go to the counselors and seem flustered or have my presentation seem hastily put together.

What's the purpose of this action?

Click here to see the goals.

When do you expect to complete this civic action?

I am not sure, but hc

Teacher Reaction

Date:

Looks good, move forward!

Please come see me.

Please edit to help me understand more about:

Your last civic action/outcome

Evidence of last civic action

Your next civic action

Other:

September 29, 2009

Dear Mrs. Takahashi:

My name is Rebecca _____ and I am currently a senior at Rocky Mountain High School. If possible, I would like to propose a new change to the counseling system, one that I believe would benefit all high school students in a tremendous way.

Though the change I am proposing would not in any way inhibit the counseling occupation, it would benefit the students each counselor advises in an extreme way. I would be very willing to work with the counselors in any way possible, for I realize the difficulty of this implementation.

The actions that I am proposing would encourage freshmen and sophomores that are beginning their high school careers to strive to win scholarships. I realize that the majority of the underclassmen may not have decided on a specific career path, but I believe that by the beginning of their high school experience, a prospective Rocky Mountain High School student needs to decide on the possibility of college. Even then, I realize decisions may change, but I would like to cater to those students who have definitively chosen to go to college.

There are a few items I would like to implement into the counseling office. Firstly, I would like to encourage counselors to question their younger students on future plans, including the subject of college. If college is a possibility, I believe the counselors should advise those students on the scholarship concept. In these times, I believe that the subject of scholarships would ease many a parents' worries. The counselors are the only link between the scholarship and the student in this situation.

In preparation, I have done some research of my own. In addition to Fastweb and Naviance, I have been a member of Zinch.com, Scholarships.com, and brokescholar.com. These are all websites that require a profile for use in the scholarship-matching process, but no fee of any kind. If possible, I would be more than willing to demonstrate my knowledge of these websites to the counseling staff. Though I am not an expert, I have searched for many a scholarship using the tools each website provides.

While the students are able to access these scholarship opportunities in the counseling offices, I would like to get word out to the general school public through both verbal and video announcements. A few specific scholarships would be advertised on these streams, and homerooms would be furnished with full details. These scholarships would generally be applicable to any and all students whenever possible.

As I explain this concept, I realize that this is a large undertaking for such a strapped counseling staff. It would be, in my opinion, advantageous to begin a scholarship advising club, where many of these options and conversations can continue without inhibiting the counseling staff's valuable time. Attached are some goals of a possible scholarship club that could be accomplished. These ideas are in no way set in stone; I have merely brainstormed them to create a few guidelines as well as a base for future growth.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions. My personal email is ### my school email ### is. Thank you and may you have a wonderful day.

Sincerely,

Rebecca ###

Goals for scholarship advising club

1. Scholarship process
 - a. Suggested websites, searching, selecting
 - b. Applications, letters of recommendation, essays
 - c. Deadlines
2. Community Service
 - a. Personal connection
 - b. Time commitment
3. Work experience
4. Leadership
 - a. Clubs
 - b. Community events, organizations
5. Guest speakers
 - a. Boettcher Foundation
 - b. Naviance
 - c. Counselors
 - d. Colleges