

Path to the Polls Voter Education Curriculum

(five modules)

Design of Modules

- Five modules (can be modified)
- Varied modes: activities, links to brief Paws-produced videos, PowerPoints, web links to nonpartisan sources
- Can be completed online outside of class
- All five modules take an average of <3 hours total to complete

Objective of Modules

- To help students understand how voting is relevant and personal; how voting relates to public affairs mission
- To familiarize students with all stages of voting process, Missouri voting procedures and new laws
- To attain familiarity with elections, students' legislative districts, identify and learn about their own elected officials
- To allow recognition of bias in themselves and others
- To learn and practice locating nonpartisan sources and to discern factual information, develop critical thinking skills

Philosophical and Pedagogical Framework – how it's unique

- Developed with students – social science perspective/technique of working *with* target community to develop solutions
- Fills in missing educational piece: applied civic engagement
- Designed to help overcome barriers to political participation
 - *Logistical barriers*: erected by election laws and policies
 - *Educational barriers*: lack of basic voting information, knowledge about the relevance of politics in students' lives, recognizing and accessing nonpartisan information
 - *Perceived barriers*: emotional and psychological factors such as high rates of anxiety that often preclude participation in novel and unfamiliar activities and exposure to overwhelming amounts of conflicting political information
- Relies on self-learning and discovery - increases level of engagement with materials
- Helps to develop critical thinking skills

Pre- and post-tests demonstrate that students successfully gain knowledge about voting and elections and that completing the modules significantly increases their perception of voting as "very important."

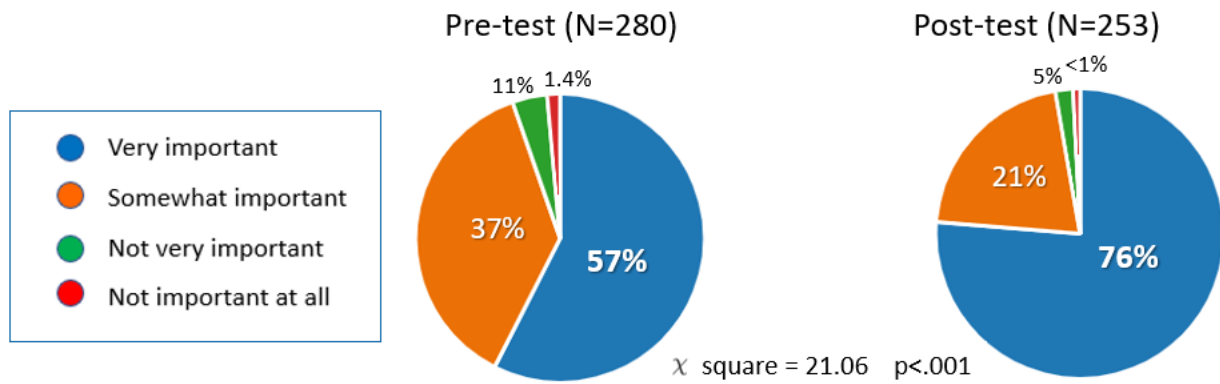
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Voter Education Modules

Module	Task	Content	
Module 1 Why Vote	Activity	Pre-survey on prior voting knowledge; issues of importance to college students; sample ballots and ballot issues; response to video & handout	
	Video (link in Activity document)	<i>“Paws to the Polls: Finding your Voice”</i> Features Paws to the Polls students discussing the goal to increase voting and voting-related knowledge on campus; MSU’s Public Affairs mission and how it relates to voting	
	Handout	Politics and Me: Issues Affecting College Students	
Objective: Making voting relevant and personal; how voting relates to public affairs mission			
Module 2 Path to the Polls: Registering to Vote	Activity	Reflection on experience with voting; voting procedures & rights, new laws, election dates; Registering to vote (<i>alternate assignment provided if not registering to vote</i>)	
	PowerPoint	Voting past and present, new Missouri laws, voter ID; process of registering to vote; actually registering	
Objective: Familiarization with voter registration procedures and new laws, registering to vote			
Module 3 My Elected Officials	Activity	Online search to identify students’ legislative districts and elected officials; learn to explore their positions	
	PowerPoint	Political districts; finding your reps and learning about them; dissecting a ballot	
Objective: Learn to find their legislative districts; identify and learn about their elected officials			
Module 4 Finding Unbiased, Accurate Information	Activity	Detecting biases, comparison of information sources, introduction of nonpartisan sources	
	PowerPoint	Identifying bias and misinformation in media; locating unbiased sources of information	
	Handout	Voter resources: fact-checking websites and apps with nonpartisan information	
Objective: Learning to discern factual information and where to find nonpartisan sources, developing critical thinking skills			
Module 5 Casting Your Vote	Activity	Types of elections, familiarity with process and forms of voting; creating a voting plan; self-reflection on voting and post-survey	
	PowerPoint	Types of elections, dates and deadlines, voter ID, polling locations, notaries, voter resources	
	Video (link in Activity document)	<i>“MSU Students Vote: Casting Your Vote”</i> Paws to the Polls students’ voting how-to video filmed at Election Center; voting process and voting machines described; interview with County Clerk	
Objective: Become familiar with voting process and elections; reflection on voting			

Sample results from self-assessment portion. Objective portion also statistically significant.

“How important do you feel it is to vote?”



Voting-Related Knowledge

