

University of Virginia Center for Politics



Democracy Corps Lesson Plan 13: YLI's e-Congress

Purpose:

This lesson is a part of YLI's Democracy Corps service learning program. YLI e-Congress, an interactive computer simulation, serves as an extension to Democracy Corps. It is not required, but student participants enhance their understanding of their target Democracy Corps issue as they simulate the role of congressional representatives and attempt to pass original legislation. Through the course of the project, students learn about the legislative process and develop valuable research, writing and problem-solving skills. They also acquire a new perspective on their target Democracy Corps issue as they shift from a local to a national perspective.

Materials:

- Access the YLI e-Congress webpage at www.youthleadership.net

Central Questions:

- How does the federal legislative process work?
- What current national legislation is related to my target issue?
- How can I influence decisions made on the national level?

Procedure:

1. Visit the Youth Leadership Initiative website at www.youthleadership.net to register for YLI e-Congress. Participation is free and generally opens in January and concludes in April. E-Congress Anytime would also be useful to you if you are not able to participate in the national program.
2. Visit the e-Congress demonstration section of the YLI website to learn more about the program and how to integrate it into your curriculum.
3. Contact staff at the Youth Leadership Initiative at ylihhelp@virginia.edu if you have questions about the e-Congress project.