
CIVIC VOICES is an international civic education exchange program that involves teachers and students from around the world in preserving the legacy of their countries' democratic struggles. Participating teachers work with their students to conduct oral history interviews with activists and explore how civic ideals are realized through grass-roots efforts. The project focuses on the power of personal narrative to inform and inspire future generations of citizens.

The American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation administers the project with teachers union partners in seven countries. The project seeks to commemorate the stories of these important struggles:

- ◆ Struggle for Rule of Law in Colombia
- ◆ Rose Revolution in Georgia
- ◆ Democratic Transition in Mongolia
- ◆ Peace Process in Northern Ireland
- ◆ People Power Revolution in the Philippines
- ◆ Solidarity Movement in Poland
- ◆ Anti-Apartheid Struggle in South Africa
- ◆ Civil Rights Movement in the United States

Students are collecting stories from change-makers in these countries, as well as dozens of others, and uploading them to an online democracy memory bank, where they will be available for use by educators, historians and researchers at:

WWW.CIVICVOICES.ORG

In addition to housing the memory bank, this Web site features free teaching materials that utilize the interviews conducted, an interactive map of civic engagement and a virtual forum where students worldwide can voice their opinions on vital civic issues.

The Civic Voices project serves important historical and educational purposes. The project rests on the following premises:

- **CIVIC MEMORY** must be fostered and is necessary for mature political judgment.
- **PERSONAL NARRATIVES** are powerful tools for inspiring civic engagement.
- **COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE** is essential for effective decision-making.
- **ORAL HISTORY** methods turn students into historians.
- **NOW IS THE TIME** to capture stories of “Third Wave” democracy activists before they are lost to the world.

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