

## EMPOWERING TOMORROW'S LEADERS: THE ROLE OF CIVIC KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT IN ENHANCING HUMSS STUDENTS' SOCIAL EFFICACY

*by:*

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In a growing community, people must participate actively. To foster positive change, people acquire and apply information, skills, and voice through civic engagement, such as voting and volunteering. Such acts can enhance the factors that affect everyone's health and well-being.

In the Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) Strand, students embark on a journey of intellectual exploration. Beyond the acquisition of academic knowledge, cultivating civic awareness and engagement is pivotal for these students. It is essential to appropriately address the significant roles that civic knowledge and engagement play in improving HUMSS students' social efficacy, fostering informed citizenship and shaping the leaders of tomorrow.

To better understand what social efficacy is, it simply refers to an individual's belief in their ability to make a positive impact on societal issues. For HUMSS students, the development of social efficacy goes hand in hand with their academic pursuits. It involves applying theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, fostering a sense of responsibility, and actively participating in civic life.

As a member of the community, we should all make an effort to actively participate in our government. Participation in communities, neighborhoods, groups, and organizations are included in civic education, which goes beyond participation in politics

and society. Students who study civics gain the ability to participate in public debates and processes.

Beyond the classroom, active civic engagement is the linchpin for improving social efficacy. Encouraging HUMSS students to participate in community service, volunteer work, or civic organizations exposes them to the practical application of their academic knowledge. Engaging with real-world issues not only solidifies their understanding but also instills a sense of agency, empowering them to contribute meaningfully to society. Moreover, volunteering is an essential factor in promoting civic involvement and a healthy community. Volunteers who are actively involved in their communities and organizations are better equipped to react to and recover from emergencies. Volunteers gain a sense of purpose and social connectedness at the same time.

Civic knowledge serves as the bedrock for social efficacy. In HUMSS, students engage with subjects that provide insights into the historical, political, and sociocultural aspects of human civilization. This knowledge equips them with a deep understanding of societal structures, issues, and the interconnectedness of global events. Armed with this foundation, students can critically analyze and comprehend the multifaceted challenges facing their communities. Additionally, civics gives students the chance to practice participating and making informed decisions for themselves, in addition to studying how others participate. As citizens, it is our responsibility to abide by all local, state, and constitutional laws. It's a fantastic opportunity to get engaged and have a voice in our government if we disagree with legislation or believe public policy should be better. Thus, students who are actively involved in civic life show that they care about their communities and country and are driven to do so.

Furthermore, incorporating community-based projects into the HUMSS curriculum amplifies the impact of civic engagement. Students can collaborate on initiatives that address local challenges, applying their theoretical knowledge to propose solutions. This hands-on approach not only enhances their problem-solving skills but also

fosters a sense of social responsibility, nurturing a commitment to creating positive change.

In the age of information, cultivating critical thinking and media literacy skills is crucial for effective civic engagement. HUMSS students should be proficient at analyzing information, discerning biases, and evaluating the credibility of sources. By honing these skills, they can navigate the intricate web of information surrounding civic issues, enabling them to form well-informed opinions and contribute meaningfully to public discourse.

The role of civic knowledge and engagement in improving HUMSS students' social efficacy is paramount in shaping them into conscientious and informed citizens. As future leaders, these students have the potential to bring about positive change in their communities and beyond. By fostering a deep understanding of civic issues, encouraging active engagement, promoting community-based projects, embracing interdisciplinary approaches, and instilling critical thinking and media literacy, teacher can empower HUMSS students to become catalysts for societal progress. In doing so, we contribute to the cultivation of a generation of leaders who are not only academically proficient but also socially conscious and actively committed to building a better future for all.

*References:*