

Civics You Can Raise — Planning Sheet

Sketch the civic capacity you're growing this year and pick a first activity for your child's age band.

What you're growing

Not a conclusion — a capacity: telling a true story, building an argument, sitting with disagreement, reading a claim honestly, showing up when it matters. Walk the Foundations track yourself first; you'll be teaching from a skill you just practiced, not a subject you memorized.

Your year's arc

Fall — noticing

What real, ordinary civic moment will you start pointing out together (a news story, an agenda, a dinner-table disagreement)?

Winter — building

What will your child practice constructing (a true story, a simple argument, a deeper question)?

Spring — practicing in public

What real, low-stakes public rep will they take on (a letter, a comment, a real disagreement, a question to someone in authority)?

Early (~5–9) — first activity

The moment

What small, real event will you use — a playground dispute, a household rule, a decision that affected them?

Your one follow-up question

After they tell you what happened, what's the honest "what do you think the other person was thinking?" question you'll ask?

Middle (~10–13) — first activity

The topic

What household rule, school policy, or local issue will they argue both sides of?

When you'll run it

Pick a real week — this works best as a two-minute exercise, not a big production.

Older (~14–18) — first activity

The real issue

What specific, local, or civic issue will they write about — not a hypothetical?

The real reader

Who is the actual decision-maker this letter or comment is addressed to?

Facilitation reminders

Ask more than you tell — don't supply the content or the right answer

Judge the story, argument, or question on whether it held up — never on whether it matched your own view

Keep the stakes low at first; nobody needs to be right in front of an audience the first ten times

Keep the work offline and in your household — no platform, no account, no public post