

Refuting the Idea of “Neutral”:

Supporting Civic Engagement & Information in the Library

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A definition of Civic Engagement:

Civic engagement refers to the programs and opportunities that promote and facilitate:

- a deeper, more critical understanding of how civic institutions operate;
- a broader, more empathic knowledge of how issues, policies, and decisions affect lives; and
- an increased awareness of and confidence in one's ability to take an active role in civic discourse and participate in community decision-making.

Access handouts from the Civic Lab:

<https://skokielibary.info/resources/civic-lab/>

Sample questions from Together at the Table:

- What is a family or religious tradition that is particularly meaningful to you? How do you continue the tradition in your life today?
- What is one thing about you that you wish other people could understand?
- What moment from your life do you feel was most important in helping you become the person you are?
- What is something you were taught that you wish you could unlearn?
- What is one thing you're glad you tried but would never do again?
- What two identities are most important to who you are? Why?
- What do you say more often in life: "yes" or "no"? Why?
- What is the thing that you are most proud of?



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Strategies & Ideas:

How do you know what's relevant to your community?

Who/what do you follow to stay engaged in topics of community interest?

How do you structure dialogue and exploration?

What do developmentally appropriate opportunities for civic engagement look like?

How do you activate staff?

How do you involve the community?