

The Youth and Philanthropy Initiative **Civics Culminating Assignment**

One of the main objectives of the Civics curriculum is to give you, the student, a better understanding of what it means to be a good citizen and demonstrate ways in which you can make a positive impact on your community – regardless of how large or small. With that in mind, we are going to take our first initial look at our culminating assignment for this semester, which is working with the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). While we are not necessarily going to start right into the assignment, the purpose today is to give you an introduction and outline of what we will be doing with the YPI and to get you thinking about your projects.

The YPI is designed to introduce students to charitable opportunities and instil philanthropic values while encouraging students to become more involved in their local communities. Through this assignment you will gain experience in relating to the charitable community and in making grants to local social service charities. You will be exposed to a variety of charitable organizations while utilizing and improving your research, presentation, writing, teamwork, and communication skills.

The project will be spread out over several weeks and six lessons in class – there will be the need for considerable time spent on this assignment outside of the classroom. Working in groups of up to five students (the ideal group will be between 3 and 5 students), you will be researching a local charity and developing a proposal and presentation to your classmates, and then possibly to the Toskan Casale Foundation. If the Foundation selections your group and your charity, they will make a donation on your groups behalf to your selected charity. What this means is that this project is very much for real – the more effort and work you put into this assignment, the greater likelihood that your charity will be given a big boost. You really can make a difference in the lives of your fellow Torontonians.

You will be given several opportunities in class, as well as several weeks outside of the classroom setting, in which to complete this assignment and prepare for your presentation. More about the actual details of the assignment and the selection of charities, as well as the rubrics and marking guidelines, will be discussed in very short order. Our goal for today is just to begin thinking about the project and to become somewhat familiar with YPI.

In the first five sessions we will take an in-depth look at the ideas surrounding citizenship and values; we will look at the social needs of our local community and the social issues that you believe are most pressing; we will narrow our groups of charities down to a single selection per group; we will work on interview and communication skills for when we contact our charities; we will look at what makes a charity effective; and finally we will present our charities.

Tentative Schedule of Events and Outline of the Process

Stage	Outline of Stage	Date
1 – Main Introduction	Students learn about citizenship and values, and how they work towards the goals of YPI	March 8
2 – Analysis	Students work in small teams to analyse the social needs of their local community and select the social issue that they believe is most pressing	
3 – Research	Each team researches the local social services charities working to address the social need they have chosen to focus on and selects one charity they believe is making the most difference to their community.	
YPI VISIT (Library)	On April 1, a YPI representative will be coming into ESA to talk to all civics students about this program and to give more detailed information about the competition.	April 1; Period 3 - Lunch
4 – Visit	Students visit their chosen charity to interview staff and (where appropriate) beneficiaries of the charity.	Outside of class hours; up to group
5 – Presentation	Students prepare a presentation about the work of their charity which they deliver in a classroom competition. The best presentation from each class progresses to the YPI Final Presentations.	Starting on April 27
6 – School Presentation	The school arranges for a special assembly or presentation evening where the YPI finalists deliver their presentations. A panel of judges, with outside representation, decides which team will have the opportunity to give a grant to their chosen charity.	May 16

Please remember that all dates are approximate; we will be working through the various sessions while still working on the rest of the Civics curriculum – which includes all regular tests and assignments. Do not fret, though, you will be given plenty of time to complete each stage. You will be given additional class time outside of what is stated above; the dates are simply for your information and to provide a timeline in which to base your progress.

Our Goal Today

Our goal today is very simple – today we will form our groups. Remember, ideal group sizes are between three and five students; this way the work load can be evenly distributed amongst the group and nobody will be overburdened.

Also, maybe begin to think about the causes that you would like to look at; remember, the dates above are the DUE DATES and not your START DATES.

YPI Group Sheet

<u>Group 1</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	<u>Group 2</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
<u>Group 3</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	<u>Group 4</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
<u>Group 5</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	<u>Group 6</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
<u>Group 7</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.	<u>Group 8</u> 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.