



American Public Square builds **stronger, more connected communities** through **civil discourse, engagement, and education**. We champion the ideals of a civil society—where citizens **engage** respectfully, **collaborate** on shared challenges, and pursue their aspirations with **purpose**.



● CEI at a Glance

APS' Civics Education Initiative is a year-long project-based learning civics program for Kansas City high school students. The program kicks off with our "Can you Agree to Disagree Better?" presentation, which explores topics like political polarization, civil dialogue, and civic thriving. Throughout the year, CEI students work together to plan a signature APS panel discussion using a deliberative model featuring diverse perspectives on a highly polarizing topic. Students choose the topic, research and suggest panelists, and help execute the event for audiences in person and online. Alumni report increased confidence in constructive communication, research, personal expression, and open-mindedness to divergent points of view.

During their event, students take on active roles implementing APS' **Civility Toolkit**



Civility Bells



Fact Checkers



Fact Sheets



Moderated Discussions



No Applause



Roving Reporters



So What, Now What

Program Focuses

- **Civics Education**
- **Civil Dialogue**
- **Media Literacy**
- **Community Engagement**
- **Democratic Renewal**

● Curriculum

During workdays, students build civic skills by engaging in a mix of student-led discussions, guest lectures, and exercises that nourish their **civic capacities**. Each day's learning is designed to be **active, engaging, and experiential**, ensuring our students have **agency** in their learning process. As students examine the complexities of their chosen topic together, they strengthen their **civic muscles** and the **public square**.



5 Workdays

9 Schools

91 Students