Idaho Standards and Applications
for
12th Grade Civics and Government

We the People: *Project Citizen*

Project based upon the Center for Civic Education's text, *We the People: Project Citizen*. To request a free copy of the text, contact the Center for Civic Education at www.civiced.org

Excerpt from the Introduction of We the People: *Project Citizen*.

When people become aware of problems in their communities, they often want government to develop and carry out policies to deal with those problems. As a citizen of the United States you have a right to say what you think government should do about problems in your community. You also have a right to say what you think about problems in your state, the nation, and about international problems. You have a right to try to influence the decisions people in your government make about all of those problems.

To be able to participate effectively, however, citizens need to know which levels of government and which governmental agencies are responsible for changing, enforcing, or developing a specific **public policy**. This project is intended to help you learn how to express your opinions, how to decide which level of government and which agency is most appropriate for dealing with the problem you identify, and how to influence policy decisions at that level of government. It calls for you to work cooperatively with others in your class to accomplish the following tasks:

1. identify a problem to study
2. gather information
3. examine solutions
4. develop your own public policy
5. develop an action plan

Your resulting project portfolio will consist of two parts. First, you will create a visual presentation of the problem, alternate solutions, and proposed solution. Secondly, you will create a notebook documenting your research, discussing the problem, and explaining your proposed solution.
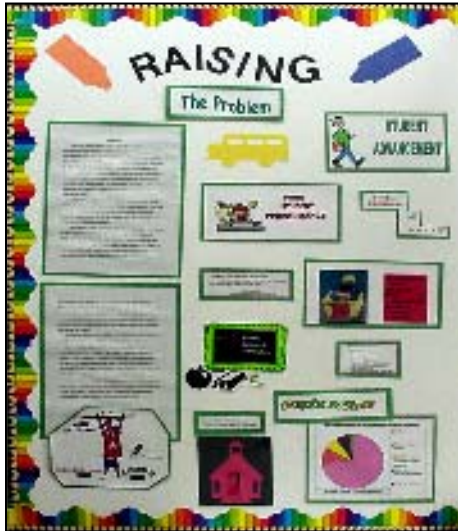
Your final activity will be to present your project portfolio to a panel of community leaders.

Visual Presentations:

Panel 1: The Problem

Panel 2: Alternative Policies

Panel 3: The Class Policy

Panel 4: Action Plan

The portfolio is an organized collection of information that makes up your class plan related to a **public policy issue** that you and your class have decided to study. The class portfolio will contain such items as written statements, charts, graphs, photographs, and original art work.