



PARENTS DEFENDING EDUCATION

ACTION

Let's Talk About: Action Civics

- **What is action civics?** Like “equity” or “social-emotional learning,” action civics sounds positive. Action civics is often described as an alternative approach to civics education that fosters children’s public speaking, teamwork, and research skills. However, it is simply another method activists use to push race and gender ideology in K-12 education. Action civics encourages students to participate in protests and demonstrations rather than spend crucial classroom time studying history and politics.
- **Why is it bad?** Action civics encourages students to participate in political protests instead of learning history and America’s founding ideals. Moreover, teachers and faculty often pressure students into political action before they are taught to critically think through issues.
- **Examples:** Look at [PDE’s Indoctrination Map](#) for examples from your state to share with your local citizen activists and lawmakers.

Action Civics proponents may use these phrases, so we broke them down for you.

When they say...	They mean...
Prioritizing student engagement	Students participate in politically and ideologically charged activities like protests and demand leaders take a particular course of action, rather than learning about civics and <i>political systems and processes</i> .
Engaging in cultural issues	Pressuring students to take a specific stance on controversial issues like climate change, gun control, and “racial justice.”
Youth participatory action research (YPAR)	YPAR programs claim to engage young people, giving them an opportunity to understand the root causes of problems and possible solutions. But YPAR programs typically push students to explore topics like “social justice.”

If you are asked...	You can say...
Why can't students have opinions about current events?	K-12 education should focus on learning civics, history, math, and science and fostering critical thinking skills—not indoctrination
But the students want to be involved, nobody forces them.	It is not unusual for students to want to be involved in activities outside the classroom. As adults, it is our job to help students focus on what matters—core subject matter
Shouldn't kids learn that they <i>can</i> make a difference?	Certainly, but children are best positioned to make meaningful contributions when they have a solid understanding of history, government, and civics.