

# An American Teacher's Perspective: What does it mean to be a Citizen?

And...is it my responsibility to teach this?



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# What do I value about teaching?

- Metaphor: A student is a block of Play-Doh. Do we want to make them into a pancake or a well rounded citizen?
- Teaching about Social Justice and Civic Education through critical thinking is a way to help create more well rounded, thoughtful and aware students and citizens.

# Teaching at Deerfield High School: Emphasis on Active Engagement and Critical Thinking

- Four Corner Debate

The Purpose of Schooling is to  
prepare young people to be good  
citizens

## Another Possible Open Topic to Discuss

- Individuals can choose their own destiny; their choices are not dictated or limited by the constraints of society.

# Group Reflection or Debriefing The Activity

- Why did this activity work...or not work?
- What moment stood out? Why?
- What did you think of the role you played during the activity?
- What could you do next time we do this activity to make it even better? How can we change it?

# Some Possible Methods to use in the Classroom

- Silent Conversation
- Fish Bowl
- Exit Cards: Ask a question for next class or make an inference
- Levels of Questions: Factual, Inferential, Universal
- Group Work and Group Roles
- Debates
- Formal and Informal Presentations

# One Story, from Prague, about Civic Engagement

- Usually, when I leave school I take a right to get to the metro, but one day in early October, I decided to take a left, and that is where our story begins...

Here is a photo of what I saw





# Anna's Response

**PŘIHLÍŽEJÍCÍ = PACHATEL**



**...nebuď nácek, Franto.**

# If Civic Engagement is the Answer, What are the Questions?

- Is school the place for these activities?
- If yes, how do we get teachers thinking about this and how do we train them?
- What do we want our students to learn? What are our goals?
- How will we know teaching about Civics or Social Justice is having an impact on students and on society?

Do you want to learn more? Here are three of my favorites sources, but there are a lot more.

- Facing History and Ourselves

[www.facinghistory.org/](http://www.facinghistory.org/)

- Teaching for Change

[www.teachingforchange.org/](http://www.teachingforchange.org/)

- Rethinking Schools

[www.rethinkingschools.org/](http://www.rethinkingschools.org/)



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