

Workshop 3: GenAl and Civic Engagement

by Yi Ding

Faculty and Director of Affordable Learning, California State University, Northridge

Title: Building Political Power with GenAI: AI as a Civic Ally

Time: 60-75 minutes

Objective: Students will explore how GenAI can support civic engagement and propose ethical AI tools to strengthen democracy.

Workshop 3: GenAl and Civic Engagement

1. Agenda

Time	Activity	Description
0–10 min	Icebreaker	"Have you used AI (like ChatGPT) for anything civic or political?" Discuss any surprises or concerns.
10-20 min	Direct Instruction	Use slides 3–5 (DebunkBot & Peaches Bot). Emphasize benefits of AI when designed ethically.
20–35 min	Case Study Brainstorm	In groups, analyze civic use cases from slide 7 (language access, data visualization, scenario planning). Students imagine their own AI civic tool idea and fill out a prompt: Who is the audience? What civic problem is addressed?
35–45 min	Design Jam	Students sketch or write out a chatbot, image prompt, or use case scenario based on their tool idea.
45–55 min	Mini Presentations	Each group shares their AI civic tool concept. Peers vote on "most likely to succeed," "most creative," etc.
55–60 min	Exit Question	"What's one way GenAI could empower your community civically or politically?"

^{*} Lesson plan developed as part of a fellowship project with generous support from the UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License.

^{**} Not sure how to use this lesson plan? Ask a librarian on your campus or contact Ding at yi.ding@csun.edu