

# Thinking Critically and Acting Responsibly

A One Day Summer Institute for Elementary Teachers grades 2-5 featuring:

## **VOICE and Primary VOICE (Violence-Prevention Outcomes in Civic Education)**



School Teams Encouraged to Apply  
Former Participants Eligible

### *Application*

August 3, 2006  
8:30 - 3:30 pm  
Chicago, Illinois

*A program of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago*

*Supported by Jenner & Block; Edward J. Lewis II Memorial Fund; Kapnick Family Fund of the Community Foundation of Collier County; Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice; Peoples Energy; Polk Bros. Foundation; Luther I. Replogle Foundation; and Walgreen Co.*



## Program Description

Developed and piloted at elementary schools in Chicago and in District U-46 (Elgin, Illinois and surrounding communities), **VOICE** incorporates conflict resolution, law-related education, and service learning to help students develop a deeper understanding of the U.S. Constitution and our system of government. Since 1996 **VOICE** has supplemented 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade social studies and reinforced reading and math skills. In 2000, using the **VOICE** framework, the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago created **Primary VOICE** for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades, using literature in conjunction with interactive lessons.

The **VOICE** and **Primary VOICE** models involve teams of attorneys; field experiences; interactive lessons which emphasize critical thinking, effective communication, and peaceful resolution of conflict; and projects which contribute to the well-being of the school and highlight quality student work.

In Illinois, the **VOICE** and **Primary VOICE** curriculum meets 13 of the Learning Standards of the Illinois State Board of Education. Teachers will be given time to align the **VOICE** curriculum with their own state standards.

## Program Benefits

A two year independent evaluation of the **VOICE** program showed that participating students:

- learned more about the U.S. Constitution and government than non-participating students, and improved their Iowa Test of Basic Skills Scores,
- had a better understanding of how to help others solve problems, and had fewer problems with discipline and fighting.

Teachers participating in a **Primary VOICE** professional development project reported:

- lessons address Illinois State Learning Standards for both social studies and language arts.
- lessons create powerful experiences for students that enhance literacy skills including comprehension, oral and written communication, vocabulary.

## Participant Benefits.

- A \$75 stipend after the successful completion of the institute.
- 1 CPDU per lesson for teachers who complete a “teacher reflection” provided by CRFC entitled “Teacher Reflections.” (suggested 4 lessons)
- Chicago area teachers attend the Illinois LRE Education Conference on October 28 for a follow-up seminar.
- Illinois teachers can receive up to 16 contact hours for Continuing Professional Development Units (CPDU’s) which includes the summer institute and follow-up session.

## Application Procedure

- Complete the Applicant Information and Agreement Forms.
- Have the Application Agreement co-signed by your principal.
- Include Registration Fee of \$25 payable to the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago.
- Return the Application Packet with payment **ASAP, but no later than June 2, 2006** to:

Jessica Chethik  
Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago  
407 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1700  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1119

## Applicant Information

*All applications must be complete, with payment, in order to be considered. A maximum of 28 participants will be accepted. All applicants will be notified regarding acceptance by June 15, 2006 at which time fees are nonrefundable. Registration fees will be refunded to applicants who are not accepted to the program. **If you have attended a prior institute, you are encouraged to apply for this as long as you bring one or more persons from your school with you.***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Email \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ School Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

How many social studies classes will you teach next year?

What grade(s)?

How often do you use (1=not used; 2=rarely; 3=occasionally; 4=frequently; 5=daily):

_____	Discussion?	_____	Service Learning/Community Service?
_____	Cooperative Learning?	_____	Outside Resource People/Volunteers?
_____	Peer Mediation?	_____	Performance Assessment?

**For teachers new to VOICE and/or Primary VOICE:** Describe one opportunity you provide your students to think critically about a civic issue, or experience democratic citizenship as a way of life, or develop respect for and understanding of diverse opinions, or examine and respond to social problems.

**For teachers returning to VOICE or Primary VOICE:** List a lesson you taught. Explain what you hoped your students would gain from participating in the lesson and what evidence (if any) you had that students had made progress. What challenges did you encounter in teaching the lesson? What did you particularly like about the lesson? Would you change the lesson in anyway?

# Applicant Agreement

*Applicant agrees to:*

- Teach four lessons and complete a “Teacher Reflection Form” for each lesson.

We agree to the terms stated above:

Applicant (New/Returning) \_\_\_\_\_

Principal \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_