

Yuma Youth Town Hall Responses to Civic Leadership

October 24, 2012

Question 1

Civic leadership involves a bipartisan effort for community meeting goals and resolving issues. Leadership can be viewed as a more individual activity. Both aspects of leaders take charge, make a difference to others, inspire, and stand up for change in order to benefit the community. A leader must have a sense of humility in order to be a civil servant and represents others to the greater community.

Question 2

Civic leadership plays a key role that benefits everyone and impacts the community. Civic leadership is present in our elected officials and those individuals who vote and take initiative. This influences different demographics within our communities. Examples of civic leaders include teachers, advisors, principals, and leaders, such as Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., and Cesar Chavez.

Question 3

Several factors affect the development of civic leaders. These can include familial roles, cultural background, age, economic background, and religious background. These influence how people relate to others. A diversity of backgrounds enables different viewpoints to be considered from a background of different knowledge. While elected officials may come from a certain demographic, it is important that all groups are represented in government leadership. Technology is an important factor to be used since it enables diverse viewpoints from a multitude of sources.

Question 4

Social media currently plays a significant role in civic leadership since it is a widely used medium. It has encouraged people to voice their opinion without fear of reprisal. Many people are using it for information on decision making and to communicate worldwide. Social media, however, can be used to bias viewpoints and cannot always be trusted as a reliable source. It enables all people to voice their opinion directly; however, it should not replace face-to-face contact, since everyone does not use this mode of communication. Furthermore, it could be misleading.

Question 5

Collaboration and respect are essential since without them people cannot work together. Respect must be earned and a leader must be willing to listen to everyone's opinions. Communication is key to achieve consensus; however, mediators are often necessary to help achieve this consensus since people often disagree. Negative political coverage doesn't see the whole idea; it only shows us what they want us to see and people can disconnect from the message. It is important for people to see the whole story in order to make up their minds since negative campaigning can be abusive and taken out of context.

Question 6

Opportunities include student council, youth town halls such as this one, FBLA, Interact, Rotary, JSA, student organizations, high school, and community college. It is important to be involved to experience opportunities to develop as a civic leader.

Question 7

Each generation should foster the next for civic leadership. Funding for education supports civic leadership through schools and scholarship for further study. The

school environment should give students more opportunities through collaboration to share their viewpoints. Families also play a significant role in developing future leaders and should provide positive support and encouragement. Society should focus on development of youth leaders since youth represents the future.