

Civics and Citizenship – Satisfactory – Year 8

Portfolio summary

This portfolio of student work shows that the student can analyse features of Australian democracy, and explain features of Australia's democracy that enable active participation (WS1). The student recognises different types of laws in Australia and explains how laws are made (WS1). They identify the diverse belief systems in Australia and describe issues about national identity and the factors that contribute to people's sense of belonging (WS1, WS2).

The student develops a range of questions to investigate Australia's political and legal systems, and critically analyses information gathered from different sources for relevance. They explain different points of view on civics and citizenship issues. When planning for action, the student takes into account multiple perspectives, uses democratic processes, and develops solutions to an issue (WS1). They develop and present reasoned arguments on civics and citizenship issues using appropriate texts, and subject-specific language and concepts (WS1, WS2). They identify ways to be an active and informed citizen in different contexts (WS1).

How citizens can change laws

Sample summary

This task had two parts. First, students wrote a letter to their local member of parliament asking for improved access to the internet for all members of a remote Australian community. Second, assuming this request was successful, students wrote a short newspaper article reporting on the student's action and resultant changes in legislation. The task was completed at the end of a term in which students had investigated the ways in which Australian citizens can engage with their local, state/territory and federal representatives and had completed a scripted role-play of parliamentary legislative processes.

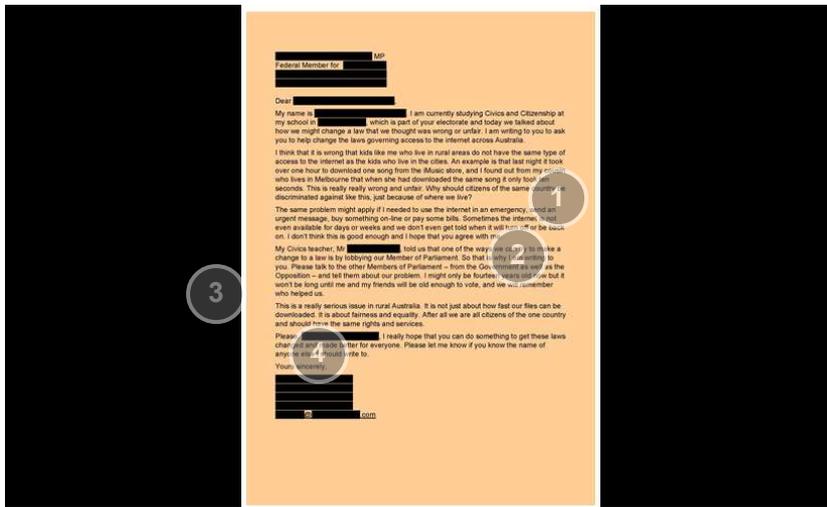
Achievement standard

Subject

By the end of Year 8, students analyse features of Australian democracy, and explain features of Australia's democracy that enable active participation. They recognise different types of law in Australia and explain how laws are made. They identify the diverse belief systems in Australia and analyse issues about national identity and the factors that contribute to people's sense of belonging.

When researching, students develop a range of questions to investigate Australia's political and legal systems and critically analyse information gathered from different sources for relevance. They explain different points of view on civics and citizenship issues. When planning for action, students take into account multiple perspectives, use democratic processes, and develop solutions to an issue. Students develop and present reasoned arguments on civics and citizenship issues using appropriate texts, subject-specific language and concepts. They identify ways they can be active and informed citizens in different contexts.

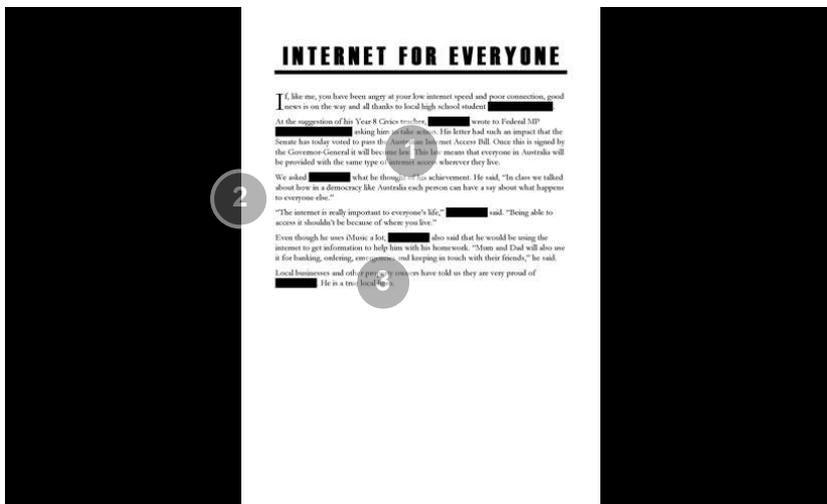
Letter



Annotations

- 1 **Annotation 1**
Identifies some of the diverse experiences within Australia
- 2 **Annotation 2**
Describes the features of Australian democracy
- 3 **Annotation 3**
Describes aspects of active participation in the political process
- 4 **Annotation 4**
Communicates using appropriate texts, subject-specific language and concepts

Newspaper article



Annotations

- 1 **Annotation 1**
Understands how laws are made
- 2 **Annotation 2**
Describes some of the actions of an active and informed citizen
- 3 **Annotation 3**
Communicates using appropriate texts, subject-specific language and concepts

Australian identity

Sample summary

The task occurred at the end of year as part of a whole-school forum on Australian identity and civic responsibility. In age- or stage-equivalent groups, students participated in a series of structured, teacher-moderated discussions of Australia's democratic institutions and their personal understanding of, and engagement with, notions of diversity, difference and unity.

Achievement standard

Discussion

