

VOLUNTEER DOCENT TRAINING

VOICES AND VOTES

■ *Democracy in America*

THE
PRINDLE
INSTITUTE
for Ethics
DEPAUW



APPE
&



THE BIG IDEA FOR TODAY

You're not the expert.
You're the *host*.

■ *Ask a question. Listen. Make sure nobody's standing alone in the corner.*

THE EXHIBIT

At a Glance

6

content sections

From the Revolution to today,
roughly in order

4

short videos

Plus three touchscreens and
several flipbooks

30

minutes per tour

You won't cover everything.
Don't try. Hit the basics and then
let folks explore.

Oct. 10

to Nov. 20

Prindle Institute for Ethics
DePauw University

A QUICK ROADMAP

Six Sections. Six Core Questions.

01 **The Great Leap**

02 **A Vote, A Voice**

03 **The Machinery of Democracy**

04 **Beyond the Ballot**

05 **Creating Citizens**

06 **Stories of Democracy**

Your kit for every stop: an idea, an object, a question.

01

SECTION 01 OF 06

The Great Leap

THE IDEA

In 1776, Americans bet that ordinary people could govern themselves. In 1787 they had to figure out how.

POINT AT

**“Join, or Die” and the map of British North America.
The Creating the Constitution touchscreen.**

■ *Who counted as “the people” in 1776? Who counts now?*

02

SECTION 02 OF 06

A Vote, A Voice

THE IDEA

Voters were a fraction of the population at the start. Every expansion of the vote was fought for, and some were rolled back.

POINT AT

The voting rights timeline. The “Register Today” poster. The “My First Vote” video.

■ *Did any of these amendments change things for someone in your family?*

03

SECTION 03 OF 06

The Machinery of Democracy

THE IDEA

Parties, campaigns, buttons, songs, and ads aren't in the Constitution. Americans invented them to get people to the polls.

POINT AT

The 1840 log cabin and hard cider imagery. The campaign button case. The voting machine panel.

■ *How do you show support for a candidate or a cause?*

04

SECTION 04 OF 06

Beyond the Ballot

THE IDEA

Petitioning, marching, and lobbying are how people are heard when the ballot isn't enough. Money and power complicate who gets listened to.

POINT AT

The protest poster wall. The 1889 "Bosses of the Senate" cartoon. The protest footage loop.

■ *What causes do you see on these posters? Has anyone here marched for something?*

05

SECTION 05 OF 06

Creating Citizens

THE IDEA

The founding documents never defined who a citizen is or what citizens owe each other. Every generation argues about it.

POINT AT

The citizenship test flip-ups. Rockwell's Four Freedoms. The equal rights buttons.

■ *Could you pass the citizenship test? What does a citizen owe their neighbors?*

06

SECTION 06 OF 06

Stories of Democracy

THE IDEA

Ordinary Americans on how they take part. A natural last stop, and a bridge to the companion exhibit.

POINT AT

The Story Kiosk. Play one story from Liberty or Compromise.

■ *How do people in your community talk about hard issues? Or do they avoid them?*

YOUR ROLE

Not an expert

Not a referee

Not a debater

A host.

Understanding, not agreement.

Curiosity, not opinions.

Three Easy Moves to Keep Handy

1

**Ask,
then wait.**

**Open question. Then silence.
Count to ten.**

2

**Go deeper,
then pass it on.**

**Invite the reason. Hand it to the
group.**

3

**Turn down
the heat if needed.**

**Watch temperature, not
disagreement.**

1

MOVE 1 OF 3

Ask, then wait.

Open questions only. Nothing that ends in yes or no.

Then say nothing. Count to ten.

Someone will usually speak by fifteen seconds.

If not, lower the bar: "Just a word or two."

SAY THIS

"What do you notice about this poster?"

"What does this word mean to you?"

"What jumps out?"

2

MOVE 2 OF 3

Go deeper, then pass it on.

Go deeper: invite the reason behind the answer.

Pass it on: hand it to the group, not back to you.

Mark progress: a quick summary keeps it moving.

Visitors talk to each other, not through you.

SAY THIS

“What makes you say that?”

“Does anyone see it differently?”

“So we’ve heard two ideas about...”

3

MOVE 3 OF 3

Turn down the heat if needed.

Disagreement is the point. Temperature is what you watch.

Name what you see, without judgment.

Redirect to the question on the panel.

Park it for the end of the tour. If it turns personal, step in briefly.

SAY THIS

"I'm noticing two pretty different views here."

"That clearly matters a lot to both of you."

"Let's keep it to our own experiences."

PRACTICE

Try it.

01 **Pair up. One docent, one visitor.**

02 **Docent: pick a section and its question. Ask. Wait. Go deeper. Pass it on.**

03 **Visitor: be real. Push back a little if you feel like it.**

04 **Three minutes. Swap. Three more.**



Before Your Shift, Remember:

Guided Tours

About 30 minutes. Then let them explore.

Basics to Know

Restrooms, seating, hours, programs

More Resources

prindleinstitute.org/voices

Shifts

Provided via email; contact if changes needed.

Stuck?

"I don't know, let's find out." Write it down for staff.

Contact

alexrichardson@depauw.edu · 765-658-5017

BACK TO THE BEGINNING:

*What does democracy mean to
you?*

■ You're now the person who gets to frame this ask.