

**Appendix R: Middle School Capstone Project Essential Elements**

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<b>Essential Elements</b>	<b>Civic Knowledge</b>	<b>Civic Skills</b>	<b>Civic Mindset</b>
Examine community	Identify situations in which social actions are required.	Participate in activities that focus on a classroom, school, community, state, or national issue or problem with the support of the classroom teacher.	Identify opportunities for and the role of the individual in social and political participation in the school, local, and/or state community.
Identify Issues		With the support of the classroom teacher, identify a civic issue (problem) in the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For example, define and frame questions about events and the world in which we live, and use evidence to answer these questions.</i></li> </ul>	Identify rights and responsibilities as a citizen of the community and the state.
Conduct Research	Describe how the issue affects the daily lives and shapes the perspectives of similar and different stakeholder groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For example, conducting interviews and administering surveys will help students understand the issue from different perspectives, including diverse cultural groups.</i></li> </ul>	Analyze and evaluate news, media, social media, and other sources of information for accuracy, bias, reliability, and credibility.	
Analysis		With the support of the classroom teacher, evaluate alternative solutions to address the community problem.	

Essential Elements	Civic Knowledge	Civic Skills	Civic Mindset
Develop Strategies and Solutions		<p>With the support of the classroom teacher, identify or develop solution(s) in the form of a public policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>For example, recognize an argument and identify evidence that supports the argument; examine arguments that are related to a specific social studies topic from multiple perspectives; deconstruct arguments, recognizing the perspective of the argument and identifying evidence used to support that perspective.</i></li> </ul> <p>Communicate in a civic context, showing the ability to express ideas, discuss, and persuade when presenting ideas.</p>	
Take Action		<p>With the support of the classroom teacher,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an awareness of and/or engage in the political process.</li> <li>• Create an action plan to enlist local or state authorities to adopt their proposed policy.</li> </ul>	<p>Demonstrate respect for the rights of others in discussions and classroom debates; respectfully disagree with other viewpoints.</p> <p>Work to influence those in positions of power to strive for extensions of freedom, social justice, and human rights.</p>
Communicate		<p>Participate in persuading, negotiating, and compromising in the resolution of differences and conflict; introduce and examine the elements of debate.</p> <p>Demonstrate respect for the rights of others in discussions and debates; respectfully disagree with other viewpoints.</p>	
Reflection			<p>Analyze the experience, reflecting on the process that was implemented, challenges faced, successes, and future civic actions.</p>

