

# BECAUSE ENGAGED YOUTH MATTERS!

This three-part series will celebrate the 2012 winners of the Colleen Willoughby Youth Civic Education Awards in Washington State and show you how you can be informed, get involved and take action in your community. For information about the upcoming 2013 awards program visit [SeattleCityClub.org/youthawards](http://SeattleCityClub.org/youthawards).

## GET INVOLVED

### Seattle Youth Traffic Court



Seattle Youth Traffic Court is the first youth court to be offered in Seattle. At SYTC, youth from Garfield High School sentence their peers who have received actual traffic tickets. Using restorative justice principles, the students develop creative sentencing while serving as judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, jury and court staff. Seattle University law students develop policies, provide training, help prepare cases and conduct hearings. Learn more at [law.seattleu.edu](http://law.seattleu.edu) (search for "youth").

#### Asking open-ended questions

Even if you're not serving as a prosecutor or a defense attorney in Youth Traffic Court, you can learn from their questioning skills. The next time you participate in a discussion seeking key details from others, remember these open-ended questioning techniques. Keep in mind that open-ended questions are not usually yes/no questions; they ask the who, what, where, why and how.

Open-ended questions help the witness:

- Explain how the violation occurred, in the order that it occurred.
- Identify the impact of the violation on all victims.
- Think of ideas for how the defendant can repair the harm.
- Define the defendant's needs.
- Report ways of connecting the defendant to the community.

#### Try this:

Think about how you can apply open-ended questioning techniques in your next interview project.

For more information, visit [wsayc.blogspot.com/](http://wsayc.blogspot.com/)

*Information courtesy of Margaret E. Fisher, Seattle University School of Law*

### TVW's Capitol Classroom



Capitol Classroom is an experiential civics education program from TVW — Washington's statewide public affairs television network — designed to teach how the state legislative process works by involving students directly in it.

In Capitol Classroom, each participating classroom is assigned a professional lobbyist who has volunteered to represent a classroom during the legislative session as if it were one of their clients. Working with their lobbyist, each class chooses a bill to either support or oppose.

The heart of the program is a series of videoconferences between the lobbyists in TVW's Olympia studio and the classroom. The sessions are driven by students, who take turns asking the lobbyist questions about the bill.

These connections offer an inside, in-depth look at how legislation moves through the Legislature, and show students how they can affect the process. They also allow the students to provide input for the lobbyists so they can lobby on behalf of the students in Olympia. Between videoconferences, students and lobbyists keep in touch via email.

#### Try this:

After watching Capitol Classroom school video connections at "Who is participating in Capitol Classroom?" at [teachwithtvw.org/capitolclassroom](http://teachwithtvw.org/capitolclassroom) and exploring the legislative resources page at [teachwithtvw.org/LegislativeInformation](http://teachwithtvw.org/LegislativeInformation), answer the following:

1. Describe the legislative process in Washington State. How does it differ from the process on the federal level?
2. Explain the legislative committee system and how it works. What is the purpose of the Rules Committee?
3. What is a fiscal note?
4. What is a lobbyist? What role do lobbyists play in the state legislative process?
5. How can a citizen track legislation in Washington State?
6. How can a citizen affect the state legislative process?

For more information, including how to join Capitol Classroom, visit [teachwithtvw.org/capitolclassroom](http://teachwithtvw.org/capitolclassroom)

*Information courtesy of Capitol Classroom*

## 2013 Colleen Willoughby Youth Civic Education Awards



### Call for Nominations

We're looking for youth civic education programs! CityClub is shining a spotlight on programs in Washington state, and we want you to apply.

**Nominations for the 2013 Youth Civic Education Awards open April 1 and close June 24.** Five winners will be selected and honored among peers and community leaders at a celebration in the fall. For eligibility and application information, visit [SeattleCityClub.org/youthawards](http://SeattleCityClub.org/youthawards) or call (206) 682-7395.

**\$500 AWARD!**



CityClub is a trusted place for civic conversation, inspiration and action, strengthening the civic health of our region. To learn more about CityClub, go to [SeattleCityClub.org](http://SeattleCityClub.org).

Program Sponsor:



To register for NIE, visit us at [seattletimes.com/nie](http://seattletimes.com/nie) or call 206/652-6290.