

## University of Virginia Center for Politics



### Democracy Corps Lesson Plan 10: Meet Non-Profit Leaders

#### **Purpose:**

This lesson is a part of YLI's Democracy Corps service learning program. Students invite local non-profit representatives to a question-and-answer session in preparation for the Service Learning component of Democracy Corps. Students will ask questions about the mission of the non-profit agency and identify one that relates to their area of interest.

#### **Materials:**

- Student Guide 1: *Meet Non-Profit Leaders*
- Computer Lab

#### **Central Question:**

Which non-profit organization is closely aligned to my target Democracy Corps issue?

#### **Procedure:**

##### **1. Warm Up**

Ask students to brainstorm titles of local non-profit organizations and to describe how they serve the community. (Examples: Habitat for Humanity builds homes for low-income families, Salvation Army provides shelter for homeless people, etc.) Then invite students to share their volunteer experiences with non-profit organizations.

##### **2. Day One**

Divide students into groups to draft a letter of invitation to local non-profit organizations to participate in a panel discussion day. Extend an invitation to 15 to 20 non-profit organizations. Letters need to explain the goals of the event, which follow.

- Meet non-profit experts.
- Learn about the services non-profits provide to the community.
- Inquire about the volunteer needs for each organization.
- Learn how non-profits relate to government bodies.

3. Modify sample letter of invitation to a political leader from Phase One if necessary. Be sure students include time, date, place, description of event and RSVP information. Students need to be sure to notify teacher when representatives RSVP.

##### **4. Day Two**

Distribute **Student Guide 1: Meet Non-Profit Leaders** and direct students to work in groups to draft questions that will aid them in acquiring information about non-profit organizations. Share questions drafted by students.



### **5. Day Three**

Create non-profit panels based on the organizations attending the panel discussion, (i.e., place all non-profits with environmental goals on one panel.) Rotate students through as many panels as possible. Segments of 10-15 minutes are recommended.

