Tools for Living Democracy
CIVIC COURAGE REFLECTION TOOL

CLDE
Civic Learning and
Democratic Engagement
Theory of Change

This tool helps users think about how they can practice civic courage as they pursue social change and contribute to their communities.

CIVIC COURAGE = Congruence + Collaboration + Foresight + Strategic Patience + Systemic Responsibility + Respect

CONGRUENCE: *choosing to adhere to your core values and beliefs even when doing so may be inconvenient or risky.*

I have practiced **congruence** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **congruence** by...

COLLABORATION: *choosing to include the full range of people with a stake in an issue in your decision-making and action, even when their perspectives are in tension with your own.*

I have practiced **collaboration** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **collaboration** by...

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FORESIGHT: *choosing to consider and take responsibility for all of the likely consequences of your actions, even when it would be easier to ignore them.*
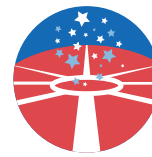
I have practiced **foresight** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **foresight** by...

STRATEGIC PATIENCE: *choosing actions that are most likely to contribute to long-term progress, even when other approaches would be easier or more immediately satisfying.*

I have practiced **strategic patience** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **strategic patience** by...

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SYSTEMIC RESPONSIBILITY: *choosing to consider the long-term civic health of the whole community in every decision about strategy, tactics, and personal conduct, even when doing so may delay progress relating to an issue you care about.*

I have practiced **systemic responsibility** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **systemic responsibility** by...

RESPECT: *choosing to recognize people's humanity, listen to their stories, and avoid writing them off based on their having perspectives in tension with your own.*

I have practiced **respect** by...

I could do/could have done more to practice **respect** by...