

Action-Ed Newsletter,

November 2007



Welcome

Hello! Welcome to the first of many Action-Ed Newsletters. My name is Regan Ross. I am a high school teacher, the founder of Action-Ed, and the creator of *The Civic Mirror*. I know most of you personally, and many of you briefly. Whichever, I'm excited to announce that my vision of changing education with Action-Ed simulations and other learning resources that bring real-world experiences into classrooms around the world is successfully underway (click [here](#) for more info about Action-Ed, its philosophy, and vision).

Welcome aboard! I guarantee it will be an adventure.

Action-Ed News... The Civic Mirror

The year 2007 is ending with huge successes. Action-Ed has developed the beta version of *The Civic Mirror*, its first face-to-face *and* online simulation. This simulation turns classrooms into countries and students into citizens. Students gain first-hand experience being citizens, running a government, participating in an economy, sustaining a natural environment, managing personal finances, and much, much more. Check out civicsmirror.com for more information.

After touring the Pacific Northwest's "social studies hot spots" this October, a team of 13 enthusiastic teachers signed up to pilot the beta version of *The Civic Mirror* throughout Oregon, Washington, and BC. That means there will be between 15 to 20 *Civic Mirror* nations this year. Stay tuned to civicsmirror.com as some of these simulated nations will be showcased on the homepage.

At this moment, there are 4 *Civic Mirror* nations running in Seoul, Korea and White Rock, BC, each one as different as the students that comprise them. My students' country – *Shire* – has become locally famous as my students made the front page of the community newspaper (click [here](#) for the story). For more about my students' country and their plotting & scheming, see the "From The Civic Mirror Trenches" section [below](#).

Announcements!

Civic Mirror Workshops

In the coming weeks, there will be two workshops for anyone interested in learning more about *The Civic Mirror*. These workshops are being held so that the pilot teachers get the chance to play the simulation for themselves, but there is space available for 7 more attendants at each workshop (more numbers means more fun in our practice game). If you are interested in attending one of the workshops, check the dates, times & locations below and contact [Regan Ross](#). It will be lots of fun and there'll be lots of learning.

Saturday, November 17th

10:00am to 1:00pm at [McNary High School](#),
595 Chemawa Rd N, Keizer, OR

Saturday, November 24th

10:00am to 1:00pm at [Earl Marriott Secondary](#)
15751 16 Ave, Surrey, BC

* If you are interested in booking an *Introductory Civic Mirror Workshop* for a group of educators, contact [Regan Ross](#), he would be more than happy to work out a time & date.

Pilot Slots Opened-Up

2 of the 15 piloting vacancies have opened up. This is an exciting opportunity for students and educators to actively participate in the development of a simulation that will totally change the way government, economics and citizenship courses are taught. The pilot period will run from January to June of 2008. Interested teachers should contact [Regan Ross](#). If you're on the fence, go for it... You won't regret it.

End Notes

January's Newsletter will have more information about our next steps, *The Civic Mirror's* progress & development, and how you might be able to get involved with Action-Ed in its infancy. Thanks to all of you for your interest and support, and please feel free to spread the word.

Sincerely,

Regan Ross.

Action-Ed Founder & Teacher

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From The Civic Mirror Trenches

Showcasing the *Civic Mirror* Country Shire

School: Earl Marriott Secondary , White Rock, BC.

Course: Gr. 11 Civics Studies

Shire has been a divided nation since its early beginnings when two political parties quickly came into being and fiercely competed for the citizen's favour. The UNSC (United Nation of Shire Conservatives) is a right-wing party full of highly motivated, deep-pocketed citizens and a behind-the-scenes policy/legislation junky who reminds his teacher of a teenage Henry Kissinger. The SEL (Shire Environmental Liberals), on the other hand, are a moderate, environmental, and welfare-promoting party whose biggest supporters are poor and relatively lazy citizens (the kids who are more concerned about Friday's party than failing their class).

The following are some notable headlines from Shire's first year:

- The UNSC Prime Minister was accused for extortion and promptly impeached by the national judge (who, ironically, was appointed by the same Prime Minister). The trial's highlight was when the prosecution submitted their key piece of evidence (get this): *a Facebook conversation where one politician admitted he had been bribed by the prime minister.*
- Seven citizens had family members DIE due to a lack of food, shelter, health care, and/or neighbourhood policing; however, they did little to develop their economy which will leave the nation in the same difficult position in the coming year.
- In response to rumblings that a group of poor citizens were going to start a communist party, the UNSC legislated strict price controls on all economic goods a la Nixon and Trudeau. Is the UNSC's right-wing agenda fading in importance?

Only time will tell if the Shire's second simulated year (2001) will be as turbulent as its first.

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