



MINI-GRANT AWARD OPPORTUNITY SPRING 2021



Project Pericles, in collaboration with [Up to Us](#), is delighted to share an initiative: **The Up to Us Voting Modules Mini-Grants**—a \$500 award to support a faculty member to incorporate voter education and a deliberative dialogue discussion about a pressing civic or economic issue (see below) into a Spring 2021 class. In addition, the Mini-Grants will support a faculty member to integrate an assignment/activity that deepens student engagement with the discussion topic and to participate in professional development through online faculty convenings.

About the Up to Us Voting Modules Mini-Grants:

Faculty across disciplines are actively using the [Periclean Voting Modules](#), a set of resources to incorporate nonpartisan voter education into the curriculum. The curricular modules are designed to cover three main areas: 1) deliberative dialogue discussion sections, 2) why voting matters, and 3) an overview of the registration and voting process. The goal of the [deliberative dialogue discussion](#) is to empower students to see the connections between the issues that affect them, their elected officials, and the impact of their vote. Project Pericles provides a framework to support faculty facilitating a deliberative dialogue discussion including discussion prompts (below), deliberative dialogue discussion ground rules, issue stances, a sample PowerPoint, and other supplemental resources including articles, guides, and reading material.

Faculty who receive an Up to Us Voting Modules Mini-Grant will engage in the following activities:

1. Facilitate a Deliberative Dialogue Discussion

Up to Us and Project Pericles have expanded on the deliberative dialogue discussion modules to include four topics that actively engage students to understand pressing civic and economic issues which affect them and the importance of voting. Faculty will facilitate a deliberative dialogue discussion in one of the following four topics, and are encouraged to interpret/build upon the topics to structure a discussion that best fits the needs of a class in their course.

Up to Us Deliberative Dialogue Discussion Topics

The National Debt	Student Debt Crisis	Reducing Hyperpartisanship	Rising Healthcare Costs
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A longer description of the Up to Us topics, including discussion prompts and resources to help facilitate the discussions, are found below or on the [Project Pericles Voting Modules Website](#).

2. Deepen Student Engagement with a related Activity/Assignment

Faculty will deepen student engagement with the Up to Us Deliberative Dialogue topic by incorporating a complementary activity/assignment encouraging personal reflection and consider real-world action to address the issue discussed. Examples of past activities/assignments from faculty awardees include: writing a letter to an elected official about the topic; creating a poster informing others about the topic; conducting quantitative

analysis on real-world data pertaining to the topic; recording a personal reflection describing how the topic affects them and potential actions they can take to make a difference; developing a campus-wide public engagement forum to present information about the topic; and synthesizing research on where local candidates stand on a topic.

3. Participate in Virtual Faculty Leadership and Learning Communities

We are pleased that during this isolating time, faculty awardees will engage in virtual convenings for faculty to connect with other civically engaged scholars. These convenings are designed for faculty to facilitate resource sharing and work through challenges together. Faculty will be expected to attend one or more convenings. Convening times will be based on faculty availability.

Goals for the Up to Us Voting Modules Mini-Grants:

- Empower students to see the connections between the issues that affect them, their elected officials, and the impact of their vote.
- Facilitate a deliberative dialogue discussion with one (or more) of the four Up to Us topics (The National Debt, Student Debt Crisis, Reducing Hyperpartisanship, and/or Rising Healthcare Costs.) Discussions typically take approximately 45 minutes.
- Engage students in an innovative activity/assignment that connects personal reflection and real-world action with the discussion topic(s) facilitated in the class.
- Ideally engage more than 14 students in a class held before June 2021.
- Evaluate/assess participants' increased understanding of 1) The importance of the issue topic and 2) The importance of voting.
- Participate in at least one "Voting Modules Faculty Leadership and Learning Community," a virtual convening.

To Apply:

- Faculty from a higher education institution from any discipline are invited to apply.
- Please send an e-mail to Arielle del Rosario (arielle@projectpericles.org) with the following information:
 - Name, title, institution.
 - Two-three paragraph proposal explaining how the discussion topic will be facilitated and meet the expectations of the mini-grant (see "Goals for the Up to Us Voting Modules Mini-Grants" above.) Please include how the Up to Us deliberative dialogue topic will be adapted to fit the needs of a class; which aspects of voter education will be incorporated; how an assignment/activity that deepens student engagement with the topic will be integrated; how many students will be engaged; and plans for evaluating students' learning.
- Applications will be reviewed and awarded on a rolling basis.

Use of Grant Award: The grant award money may be used at the discretion of the faculty member and their institution.

The check will be made out to the awardee's college/university and sent after all evaluation materials have been received by Project Pericles.

For more information or any questions, please contact Arielle del Rosario at arielle@projectpericles.org.

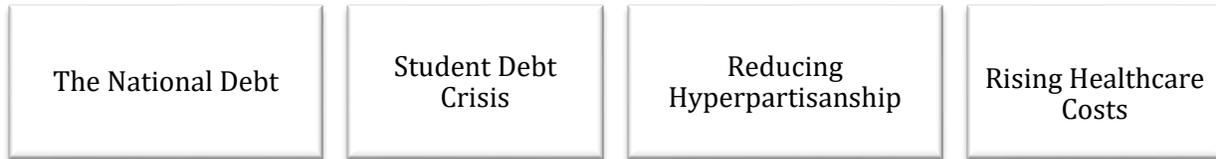
Project Pericles appreciates the support of Up to Us, The Eugene M. Lang Foundation, and The Students Learn/Students Vote Coalition.

***Up to Us is the nationwide, campus-based campaign focused on building a sustainable economic and fiscal future for America's next generation.**

Periclean Colleges and Universities

Allegheny College • Bates College • Berea College • Bethune-Cookman University
Carleton College • Chatham University • Dillard University • Drew University
Elon University • The Evergreen State College • Goucher College • Hampshire College
Hendrix College • Macalester College • Morehouse College • New England College
The New School • Occidental College • Pace University • Pitzer College • Reed College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Rhodes College • Skidmore College
Swarthmore College • Ursinus College • Wagner College
Whitman College • Widener University • The College of Wooster

Up to Us Deliberative Dialogue Discussion Topics



The National Debt

Our nation's debt has never been larger, and it has the potential to affect not only each of us but future generations. By the end of the fiscal year 2018, the United States government owed around \$21.7 trillion in gross federal debt. It was \$10 trillion just ten years ago and is projected to rise to \$34 trillion in another decade. Many economists warn that this level of debt is unsustainable and that significant actions need to be taken to address the growing problem. Should all of us have to tighten our belts or should we ask more from larger corporations or wealthier citizens? Are we willing to live with a much smaller federal government—and if so, what benefits and services are we willing to live without? Or should we address the debt through a combination of increased taxes and reduced federal spending?

Issue Stances:

- Raise federal taxes
- Cut spending in the federal budget
- Combination of raising federal taxes and cutting spending in the federal budget

Supplemental Resources

- National Issues Forum: [“A Nation in Debt” summary guide](#)
- CrashCourse: [Deficits & Debts: Crash Course](#)
- NPR: [U.S. National Debt Hits Record \\$22 Trillion](#)
- Peter G. Peterson Foundation: [Key Drivers of the National Debt](#)

Student Debt Crisis

College can be the most important four years of most people's lives, but it can also prove to be financially draining and stressful - particularly in terms of student debt. Superficially, student debt might appear to be a personal problem - one that impacts only the individual who borrowed money to fund his or her dream for a successful future. But the truth is, student debt is more than a personal problem: It's one that can adversely affect the economy in many ways. In 2019, there are 45 million Americans with student debt who owe more than \$1.5 trillion dollars. What should we do about the student debt crisis? Should the government cancel and/or forgive all student debt? Or is it an unfair burden on taxpayers who don't go to college? Should we expand debt federal forgiveness plans for those students who choose careers in public service?

Issue Stances:

- Cancel all student debt
- No changes to current student debt repayment policies
- Expand federal debt forgiveness plans

Supplemental Resources

- Forbes: [Student Loan Debt Statistics In 2019: A \\$1.5 Trillion Crisis](#)
- Up to Us: [What is the cost and value of a college degree in 2019?](#)
- NPR: [Senators Press Consumer Financial Protection Bureau To Dig Into Problems With Public Service Student Loan Program](#)

Reducing Hyperpartisanship

In the United States, there is a sense of a deep political divide. These dichotomies are harmful to working through our country's most pressing issues. Major problems, including the national debt, immigration, health care, and Social Security continue year after year. Yet, we appear unable to confront these urgent problems because of hyperpartisanship. One strategy to combat hyperpartisanship is making sure citizens have access to unbiased, nonpartisan information and news. Knowing that, should we require multiple viewpoints be addressed in the media and online? Or would that stifle free speech? Does that give media and internet companies too much power? Or should media companies be persuaded to provide multiple viewpoints without requiring them to do so?

Issue Stances:

- Require all media and internet companies to provide opposing views on controversial issues
- No requirements of television networks to provide opposing views
- Suggest, but do not enforce, media and internet companies provide opposing views

Supplemental Resources

- National Issues Forum: [A House Divided: How Do We Get the Political System We Want? Summary Guide](#)
- The Washington Post: [Everything You Need to Know About the Fairness Doctrine in One Post](#)
- The Los Angeles Times: [Reagan's Veto Kills Fairness Doctrine Bill](#)

Rising Healthcare Costs

The United States spends more money on healthcare than any other developed nation. Yet, our healthcare outcomes are no better than other countries who are spending less. The U.S. performs worse in some common health metrics like life expectancy, infant mortality, and unmanaged diabetes. A healthcare system with high costs and poor outcomes undermines our economy and fundamentally isn't serving the needs of the people. Yet, healthcare remains one of the most politicized issues in the U.S. What should we do to lower costs and improve healthcare outcomes? Should we institute a government healthcare scheme similar to the United Kingdom or Canada? Or does that undermine individual choice? Should Obamacare be expanded? Or should Obamacare be repealed?

Issues Stances:

- Institute a government-run single-payer or Medicare-for-all style healthcare scheme
- Expand Obamacare and provide additional tax incentives to help individuals afford healthcare in a private marketplace
- Repeal Obamacare and no federal government support for healthcare

Supplemental Resources:

- Peter G. Peterson Foundation: [How Does The U.S. Healthcare System Compare To Other Countries?](#)
- CNBC: [France's health-care system was ranked as the world's best—Here's how it compares with the US'](#)
- The Brookings Institution: [Introduction to the U.S. health care system](#)