

Listen Up! Getting Involved By Paying Attention

One important way to be politically involved is just by paying attention to politics. This is often referred to as “cognitive engagement”.

“Cognitive engagement is paying attention to politics and public affairs by:”

- Participating in politics by being tuned into various sources of media
 - newspapers, social media, email updates, phone/text alerts
- Talking about politics with friends and family
- Simply being interested in public affairs

Why this matters:

Paying attention to politics allows one to make informed decisions. Thinking critically about current issues and topics in local, state, and national politics “stirs people to further action and develops habits of political participation. For young people, attention to politics and public affairs may be a valuable indicator of likely future participation” (Zukin 54).



Notes

Additional Info: Zukin, Cliff. *A New Engagement?: Political Participation, Civic Life, and the Changing American Citizen*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2006. Print.

Additional Info: Levine, Peter. *The Future of Democracy: Developing the next Generation of American Citizens*. Medford, MA: Tufts UP, 2007. Print.

Through research, public service, and education, the Youth Political Participation Program (YPPP) celebrates and supports the political learning and engagement of young people. For more information, visit our website, yppp.rutgers.edu.