Civic Engagement Initiatives at NYIT | 2018-19 Academic Year

September 17: Constitution Day
As every year, we will have campus-wide initiatives that inform our community about the U.S. Constitution. In previous years, NYIT hosted a panel debate on the Emolument Clause, a “Meet Ben Franklin” event, and several canvassing efforts distributing free copies of the Constitution as well as voter registration forms.

September 25: Life Hack Series - Register to Vote
November 6: Life Hack Series - Vote!
The IEE Life Hack Series aims to educate NYIT students on everyday skills that are needed in the academic and non-academic world. These skills also include civic participation and engagement, which is why two events during this semester’s series will provide information on voter registration and the process of voting in general (where to register/vote, how to obtain information about the different candidates and on the issues, etc.).

October 11: Civic Thursday - Bring it to the Table
Bring It to The Table is a short documentary, webisode series, online platform, and community engagement campaign aimed at bridging political divides and breaking down partisanship. A small yellow flower in a red vase is positioned at the center of The Table. At the beginning of each Table Talk, producer Julie Winokur asks the participant to move the flower along the spectrum between conservative and liberal. From the participant’s perspective, Winokur makes conservative the extreme left and liberal the extreme right (which is reversed from the camera’s perspective). From the start, the participants’ assumption about right and left has been upended, while the viewer has an immediate visual cue to determine how each person self-identifies politically. This piece of information plays a critical role in shattering stereotypes and challenging semantics.
September 27, October 25, November 8: Civic Thursdays

Critical thought and civic participation are essential to being an educated community member of the 21st century. On Civic Thursdays, we cover topics ranging from modern-day slavery to feminism to fake news. The idea behind the event series is to include a diverse range of voices from the campus community; inspired by the “Subway Therapy” installations which happen regularly in various NYC train stations, students are called to shape the conversation before participating in the discussion. Boards are put up in our library encouraging passersby to post their ideas and comments about that week’s topic. Then, on Civic Thursday, an open discussion takes place, based on the notes. **Over the course of the upcoming semester, Civic Thursdays will heavily focus on political participation, while encouraging both domestic and international students to advocate for the topics that matter to them with their local and federal policymakers.**