

## Kentucky Youth Assembly Syllabus and Class Schedule

Hello! The following materials are a part of the Kentucky YMCA's Youth Association's Teacher Resources initiative. You are so crucial to the KY YMCA experience, and we want to make sure we're giving all the support we can. These are geared toward a high school but are easily adaptable for a middle school course.

Please use these materials as you see fit, and tweak them for the needs of your classroom or group. Please contact your KY YMCA Regional Director or Emily Donlon ([emily@kyyymca.org](mailto:emily@kyyymca.org)) for assistance or clarification with these materials.

### Course Description

The goal in this class is to explore and better understand Kentucky and its government processes. This course will begin with an overview of Kentucky history and culture then move to current events in the state. While exploring relevant issues in Kentucky, students will be asked to think critically about their research process and the sources they procure.

The course is woven in with the Kentucky Youth Assembly calendar and will provide students ample opportunity to develop bill ideas and prepare for the conference. A guide to Service-Based Learning will be a part of the course design, although completely optional depending upon resources and time. Students will be able to research, design, and then implement a service project, culminating in a presentation on an issue that is important to the student.

### Course Requirements

- Tests – \_\_\_ points
- Quizzes – \_\_\_ points
- Project – \_\_\_ points
- Presentation – \_\_\_ points
- Writing Assignments – \_\_\_ points
- Participation – \_\_\_ points
- Attendance – \_\_\_ points

### Supplemental Texts (optional)

*Coal Tattoo*, Silas House  
*The Bluegrass Conspiracy*, Sally Denton  
*Hannah Coulter*, Wendell Berry  
*The Mad Farmer Poems*, Wendell Berry

### Supplemental Videos/Films (optional)

*The Kentucky Show* at the Kentucky Science Center in Louisville, KY  
KET Videos found at <http://www.ket.org/kentuckystory/video.htm>

### Presentations/Projects/Tests/Writing

Student Presentations on Learning – these presentations can occur at the end of the semester and will account for BLANK points. These presentations will be centered on the Service-Based Learning projects they conducted during the semester (of course, optional).

## Discussion/Participation

Please fill in your preferred policy.

## Generic Semester Schedule

This sample semester schedule can be altered to fit the needs of your class schedule. All activities are suggestions, and time spent on each topic can be extended or shortened. Specific dates are based on 2015 KY YMCA calendar.

August 10-14

**Week 1:** Introduction to course

August 17-21

**Week 2:** Background on Kentucky government and politics; using *Kentucky History Lesson Plan\**; using *Then and Now: Kentucky PowerPoint Presentation\**

August 24-28

**Week 3:** Kentucky Current Events

- *News Quiz\**, a weekly 15-minute show produced by KET; additional resources include quiz questions to engage

August 31 – September 4

**Week 4:** Kentucky State Capital and Capitol Resources

- Introduction to the KY State Capitol, the Old State Capitol, and the workings of state government; using KET-produced videos and interactive PBS LearningMedia\*.

September 7-11

**Week 5:** Flex Week – Explore Kentucky; review list of potential Kentucky sites for a good ol' field trip

- Regional Roundups for Students
  - Metro Region Roundup: Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> – Louisville
  - Day of Service

September 14-18

**Week 6:** Introduce Kentucky Youth Assembly and bill writing brainstorming; great time to invite your Regional Director to lead a Bill Writing Workshop

September 21-25

**Week 7:** Research 101: What makes a good source and more; using *Research Lesson Plan\**

- Regional Roundups for Students
  - West Region Roundup: Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> – Hopkinsville
  - Central Region Roundup: Sept. 27<sup>th</sup> – Harrodsburg

September 28 – October 2

**Week 8:** Researching topics of importance for each student and giving time to Bill Sponsors for narrowing down topics; use time for bill research

- Regional Roundups for Students
  - East Region Roundup: Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Richmond
  - North Region Roundup: Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> – Burlington

October 5-9

**Week 9:** *Fall Break* (adjust according to school's calendar)

October 12-16

**Week 10:** Introduce *Community-Based Learning Lesson Plan\**

October 19-23

**Week 11:** Exploring CBL Projects and Student Interests

October 26-30

**Week 12:** Principles of Debate and Parliamentary Procedure; this is a great time to invite your Regional Director to lead a Parliamentary Procedure Workshop

November 2-6

**Week 13:** Debate and KYA Practice

November 9-13

**Week 14:** Debate and KYA Practice

November 16-20

**Week 15:** KYA Preparation

- Kentucky Youth Assembly
  - HS #1 November 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>

November 23-27

**Week 16:** KYA Preparation

- Kentucky Youth Assembly
  - HS #2 November 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>

November 30 – December 4

**Week 17:** KYA Preparation; OR Student Presentations of Learning (Community-Based Learning Presentations)

- Kentucky Youth Assembly
  - HS #3 December 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

December 7-11

**Week 18:** Student Presentations of Learning (Community-Based Learning Presentations)

December 14-18

**Week 19:** Review and celebrate semester!

Thank you so much for your commitment to empowering students to make change and better understand their communities.

In gratitude,  
KY YMCA Staff