

ARPA School Club

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Goal

To “Educate, Equip and Encourage” the Reformed student base to live as prophets, priests and kings by shining the Light of God’s Word into the public square.

Expectations

- As with all ARPA groups, success will depend largely on individual initiative and interest. As much as possible, students should follow their passion and work with issues/people/events that they believe are important;
- A teacher or local ARPA leader (adult) should be at most meetings, making an effort to turn the interest and enthusiasm into practical and realistic goals. The adult should also approve each activity before it is done;
- **Starting a group:**
 - Invite an ARPA Canada or Local ARPA Chapter representative to introduce the school club idea to the high school;
 - Set up a time for your first meeting during lunch break or other opening in the schedule;
 - Create an agenda for the first meeting, including time to pick 4 or 5 project ideas to aim for during the school year;
 - Encourage as many students to join and/or participate;
 - Start planning your projects. Be sure to confirm who is taking the lead and what date you are hoping to see the activity done.
- Meet every 2-4 weeks. Meeting too often may result in disinterest or loss of energy, and too infrequently can result in a lack of activity. Of course as an event nears, more meetings may be required. Pick the date of your next meeting at the close of each meeting. It is up to the president to call the next meeting;
- Encourage training for engagement in the public square (ARPA events, apologetics session, bring in someone from church who has experience in politics, pro-life 101 training, etc.).

For each meeting, we recommend you include time to discuss two of ARPA’s core principles (<https://arpacanada.ca/about-arpa/core-principles>) looking up the relevant Bible passages and

confessions, working through them all throughout the school year. ARPA Canada realizes that these principles can be improved and we welcome feedback and suggestions to this effect, done in a loving manner. Please give us time to respond and make changes.

Rules

The School Club is expected to:

- Always conduct itself as ambassadors of Jesus Christ, exemplifying both grace and truth;
- Support and affirm ARPA Canada's Core Principles (see <https://arpacanada.ca/about-arpa/core-principles>);
- Be non-partisan in all their activities as a group, the purpose being to further biblical principles and values, not advance or hinder political parties or candidates;
- Ensure ARPA Canada is aware of events being held, both for accountability and for spreading the word, as an encouragement to others;
- Work in coordination with the Grassroots Manager and the local "Boots on the Ground" (BOG) representative (if there is one) when opportunities arise.

Suggested Role/Activities

At the start of the year, the Club should pick four (or more) of these activities to complete throughout the school year. The president of the club is responsible for scheduling meeting agendas with the goal of completing these tasks:

- Have the students and staff sign government petitions about current political and legal issues to be passed to local MPs or MLAs and MPPs. Be plugged into ARPA Canada's newsletter to find new petitions;
- Organize EasyMail tutorials for the students during a computer class;
- Create an ARPA Information bulletin board, with up-to-date information on action items, pressing issues, and political news;
- Organize a school assembly or special presentation (e.g. pro-life 101; human trafficking; free speech; euthanasia, etc.) – with the school's permission. Be in touch with ARPA Canada for ideas about potential speakers, including ARPA staff. The more advance notice ARPA Canada has, the more likely they can provide a speaker;
- Invite a politician to speak to a class/assembly on a specific topic and then engage in a Q&A session;
- Collect resources/funds/supplies for a local pregnancy care centre (car seats, formula, baby food, clothes, strollers, etc.) and then organize a club trip to visit the centre with the supplies;
- Host a flag display in your community. There is a display kit of 10,000 flags each in BC, Alberta, Manitoba, and Ontario. Contact info@weneedalaw.ca for more information;
- Do a poster contest, where each of the students submits their poster design in two or three categories (pro-life, euthanasia, finance, environment, education, family, etc.) the winners receive a prize, and their posters are then hung in the school and on bulletin boards or sign posts throughout the community;
- Host a contest for letters written to an MP, MPP, MLA, or municipal politician (hand-written ones get extra points). At <http://easy.arpacanada.ca> we have several emails drafted which can

be printed off. Students can use these as a basis for writing a letter on a specific issue to their local representatives. You can award prizes for 'best hand-written letter' or 'letter that received the best response from the recipient' or other prizes.

- Host a contest for letters published in a local newspaper. Letters to the editors of newspapers and magazines are a free and very effective means to be a voice for truth, grace, justice, and common sense in our communities. Letters should be on topics that relate to ARPA's mission of bringing a Christian perspective to the public square. You could have prizes for 'article published in largest newspaper' or 'best-written article published' or separate prizes on categories: 'pro-life articles' or 'articles on the traditional family' etc. ARPA has created a contest like this nationally that you could also do in your school.

<https://arpacanada.ca/news/2017/02/22/letter-editor-contest/>

Assistance

- Free and helpful phone and email assistance from ARPA Canada's Grassroots Manager Colin Postma is available Monday-Friday (colin@arpacanada.ca or 519-802-4064). Don't hesitate to call for ideas, direction, or encouragement at any step along the way;
- ARPA staff may have opportunity to visit and speak to the ARPA Club. There may also be a local BOG member who is tasked with helping school clubs in their region. Ask Colin Postma who the BOG member is for your area;
- If possible, work alongside the local ARPA group, which can provide people, ideas, events, and encouragement.

Role of the Club President

- Keep the adult representative (staff, parent, etc.) informed about the ongoing activities, successes, and challenges;
- Provide updates for the school bulletin, if approved by the school administration;
- Stay in touch with ARPA Canada's Grassroots Manager;
- Call the next meeting, according to the meeting date scheduled at the most recent meeting;
- Have an agenda for each meeting that includes an action plan for the next event;
- Chair the meetings so they stay on time and focussed.

Teacher/Parent/BOG Representatives

Try as much as possible to keep a hands-off approach when overseeing the school ARPA club. If the club is starting up, find one interested student to run the first meeting, give them a brief agenda with some of the ideas above, and then let them pick a president and pick their action items for the year. From there you can guide them as they go through the planning stages for each event. Encourage them to pick the date for their next meeting after each meeting. If they do not do so, it will be much tougher to get the next meeting scheduled. That all said, don't hesitate to step in where ever the club could use your assistance.