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Issue The Youth Summit is a program run by the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago. Each year, students vote on three controversial and current topics to study at their own schools and discuss later with policy makers and other high school students at the Youth Summit at the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago. In 2014, the three topics that were chosen by students were background checks on all gun sales in the United States, banning abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy and the passing of the USA Freedom Act to prevent the NSA from mass collection of domestic phone records. The topic I focused on was the USA and the passing of the Freedom Act.

Project Description Our project was a teach-in, which is teaching a class about our topic. Our presentation was a google presentation with embedded videos to help show more statistics and facts. The teach-in also consisted of a poll which students were able to respond to by text message. To help explain the gun sale background check topic, State Senator Dan Kotowski came and talked to us in the morning. Another aspect of our project was surveys given to more than 600 students to evaluate their opinions on each topic. These surveys are given by paper and also electronically through the internet.

Project Outcome From the teach-ins, the conclusion was most people's opinions changed from before the presentation to after. This shows that after being educated about the topic, a more informed opinion was crafted. Another outcome is that the students who participated in Youth Summit were able to discover, research and synthesize information about their topics to refine their opinions.

Request Is there a particular party that is for passing the Freedom Act? Could you explain in more detail what is included in the Freedom Act? To what extent can the NSA gather information without violating the fourth amendment? How big of an issue is the NSA in Congress currently?

Project Link https://docs.google.com/a/maine207west.org/presentation /d/1fmAaWg0whCmozIH7BjOraJ2Fuwq_T06cTM5t5aJA0hM/present?slide=id.p