

Tithi Mehta

Breaking Barriers: Translating Civic Language for Everyone

ONE Project



Introduction

Hi everyone!

My name is Tithi Mehta, and I'm an 11th grader passionate about civic engagement and accessibility. Through the ONE Project, I explored how translating civic language can help make participation more inclusive for everyone, especially those who face language barriers. This project connects my interests in communication, community, and ensuring that everyone has a voice in civic life.



Objective

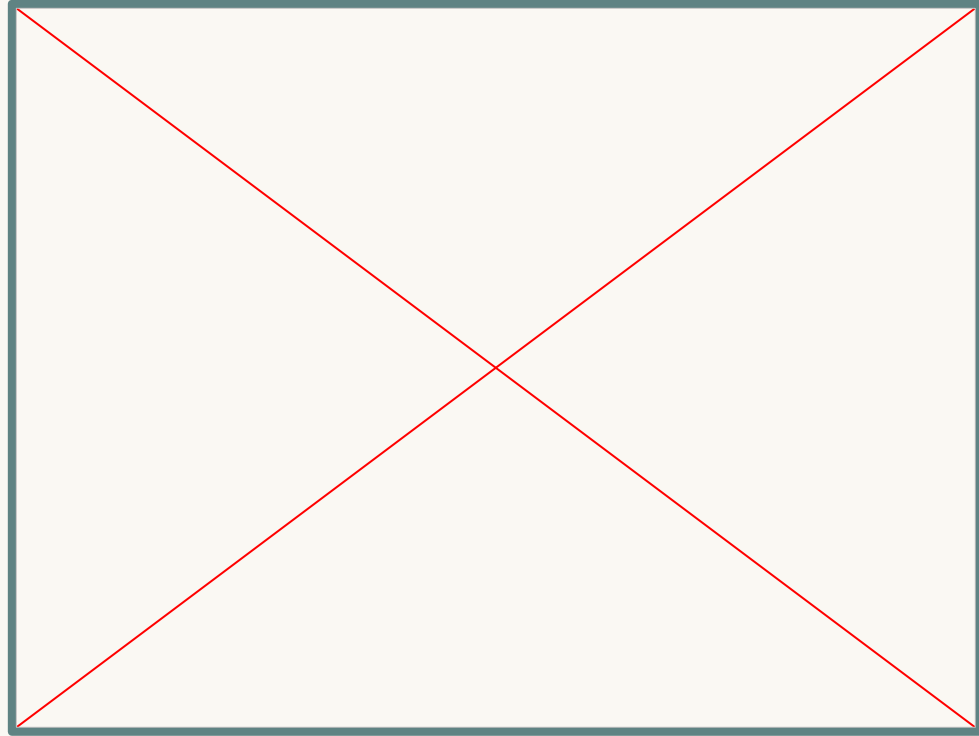
- Identify barriers that non-native English speakers face when accessing civic and voting information.
- Explore how translating civic resources, like the League of Women Voters website, can make participation more inclusive.
- Promote solutions that ensure all citizens can understand and engage in the voting process.

Problem Statement: “To support non-native English speakers in their voting and civics journey, there should be multiple translations for webpages like The League of Women Voters to provide accessible voting resources and help them become more informed citizens.”

Building Accessible Voter Tools



Website Link





Interviews



Kinn Badger

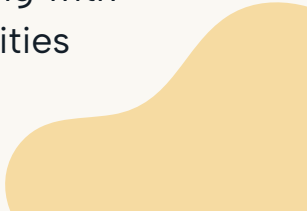
I interviewed Kinn Badger, a political strategist and advocate with experience in civic engagement and community outreach. She gave me feedback on my project and shared tips about networking in the civic and nonprofit space.

League of Women Voters

I interviewed representatives from the League of Women Voters New Jersey and the Princeton chapter, who shared how they provide voter resources and make civic information accessible to diverse communities. They also gave guidance on my project and offered tips for engaging the community effectively.

Sarah Lin

With the help of Kinn, I interviewed Sarah Lin, who plays a key role in advancing AAPI engagement through the DCCC's national efforts. She shared insights on promoting civic participation and offered advice on connecting with diverse communities effectively.



Insights



- Many organizations struggle to provide multilingual civic materials because professional translation services are expensive.
- Smaller nonprofits and local groups often lack funding or resources to translate key voter information.
- This leads to information gaps that make it harder for non-native English speakers to fully participate.
- Partnerships and youth-led translation efforts could help reduce these barriers.

Outcomes



Connect with LWV Princeton

Based on my meeting with the LWV NJ, I connected with the LWV Greater Princeton Area.



Passing out Flyers

With this new network, I will be helping pass out flyers and other materials in my local library and other facilities.



Investigated the Importance of Civics and Language

Overall, I learnt that this is a real issue that many want to address, but they cannot.



**Thank you
for listening!**