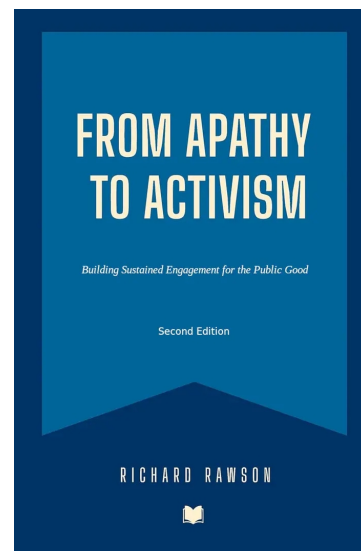


FROM APATHY TO ACTIVISM

Building Sustained Engagement for the Public Good

Course Adoption Guide for the Updated and Expanded Edition

From Apathy to Activism examines civic engagement as a developmental process, tracing how awareness becomes empathy, empathy becomes sustained participation, and communities build the capacity for collective action, resilience, and long-term stewardship. Drawing on psychology, sociology, political science, organizational behavior, and related disciplines, the book provides an interdisciplinary framework for understanding why people disengage, what motivates participation, and how meaningful engagement is sustained. Designed for classroom discussion and critical reflection, it encourages students to examine these issues without advancing a particular political ideology or policy agenda.



Recommended for undergraduate and graduate courses in civic engagement, political science, public administration, nonprofit leadership and management, sociology, community development, leadership studies, and service-learning, as well as first-year seminars, honors programs, common-read initiatives, and student leadership programs.

Each chapter includes learning objectives, a chapter summary, reflection questions, discussion questions, a practical application exercise, and a conceptual figure illustrating key ideas, providing a consistent framework for classroom discussion while remaining accessible for independent reading.

Book Information

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Examination copies and additional teaching information are available upon request.

Chapter Overviews

The chapters trace a developmental progression from disengagement to sustained civic participation and long-term stewardship.

Chapter 1. The Anatomy of Apathy. Why people disengage and the psychological, social, and structural forces that lead from concern to withdrawal.

Chapter 2. From Apathy to Empathy. How empathy expands the circle of concern and creates the foundation for meaningful engagement.

Chapter 3. From Empathy to Engagement. How empathy becomes sustained participation through proximity, repeated action, and shared responsibility.

Chapter 4. From Engagement to Advocacy. The transition from sustained participation to advocacy and purposeful public action.

Chapter 5. From Individual Advocacy to Collective Action. How individual efforts become coordinated action that builds community capacity.

Chapter 6. Staying Oriented in an Information-Rich Environment. Navigating information overload, misinformation, and competing narratives while remaining thoughtfully engaged.

Chapter 7. Difference, Inclusion, and Collective Intelligence. How diverse perspectives, inclusion, and constructive dialogue strengthen communities and improve collective decision-making.

Chapter 8. Division, Conflict, and the Work of Repair. Understanding disagreement, polarization, reconciliation, and the practices that rebuild trust and relationships.

Chapter 9. When Engagement Produces More Than Intended. The unexpected effects of civic participation on individuals, organizations, and communities.

Chapter 10. Grassroots Organizing. How local initiatives grow into effective community movements through organization, leadership, and sustained participation.

Chapter 11. A Change-Maker's Guide. Applying the book's principles in civic practice and leadership.

Chapter 12. Continuing the Work. Sustaining meaningful engagement across time, organizations, and generations.