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Jan. 6 Hearings Show a Democracy in Crisis. Civic Education Can Help.

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The House committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, [attack](#) is holding its hearings while democracy is declining, both in the [United States](#) and [globally](#). No matter how thorough the hearings may be, they can't fix the long-term [decline in civic knowledge](#) and [civic education](#) in the United States — how Americans learn about values, rights and obligations that shape how they engage with their communities and their democracy.

Both have been [declining](#) for decades. That hurts citizens' abilities to make informed judgments about civic life. But [research](#) finds evidence that some approaches to information literacy can boost civic learning.