**Democracy in Action – Election Day Reporters’ Tip Sheet 2022**

If for some reason you did not attend or watch this year’s briefing video, please do that before heading out to the polls. It contains much more info than is included on this sheet: <https://video.syr.edu/media/t/1_j5i9e359>

* Do NOT wear any political badges, pins, T-shirts, stickers. Be NEUTRAL and professional.
* Do NOT wear BLUE / RED / GREEN in a way that suggests membership in a political party.
* Stay outside the polling place’s boundary – that’s 100 feet – when conducting interviews.
* Approach voters POLITELY and with charm – no one has to talk to us.
* Identify yourself something like this: Big smile: “I’m a journalist at Syracuse University and I’m covering the election today for a special project. We’re hoping to capture Democracy in Action – talking to voters about why they vote, what the election and democracy means to them. Would you mind talking to me a little about why you’re at the polls today?” Big Smile.
* Don’t argue with poll workers. Most are familiar with this project and know we have permission to shoot video and photos inside a polling place (as long as we stay away from people while voting). However, these workers are volunteers and may not be fully up to speed on press rights. Call or email your professor if you run into trouble.
* Tell them the name of the project is Democracy in Action, with the website: https://dia-cny.syr.edu/
* Give them a card with the URL on it, if you have some.
* We also have Twitter at***#nhdia*** Please tweet out a preview of your story while at your polling place using photos and/or video.
* In your interviews, you should:
* Be sure to get the polling place where you interview each voter. You’ll include that with anything you file.
* Get the usual identification info on each person you interview: Name / Age/ Occupation/ Place where Work/ a phone number and/or e-mail address. Be specific on occupation – *cashier* at Dunkin’ Donuts, not just employee at Dunkin’ Donuts.
* If someone won’t give the contact info, be sure to get the other info so that we can track them down for verification later if we have to.
* Try to get the person to tell his/her *STORY* about voting – Always voted? Voted for the first time when? How did it feel to cast that first ballot? Why is voting important to you? What did you do today to get ready to come vote? (try to get them to tell you the story of coming to the polls).
* Save for last the question about candidates. Remember that the ballot is PRIVATE so people do NOT have to tell us whom they voted for. Some may not tell us. When you ask, be extremely polite, charming and respectful. Say something like: (Big smile): “Would you mind telling me whom you plan to vote for? What attracted you to that candidate?”
* Look for voters who’ve brought their children. They’re usually delighted to talk and to have their children get attention. We even have a special “Kids at the Polls” section on our Web site – you can use that to persuade parents to talk. Talk to the kids too!
* Be sure to say THANK YOU.
* **File your articles/photos/video/audio quickly.**