The Program Effectiveness Panel of the U.S. Department of Education’s National Diffusion Network examined the reports of numerous research studies on the **We the People** program. The panel validated the results of those studies and confirmed the program’s powerful educational effects on students’ civic knowledge and attitudes. This formal validation recognizes the **We the People** program’s "contributions to excellence in education."

*What the Research Says*

* A "great instructional success," is how the Educational Testing Service characterizes the **We the People** program. Independent studies by ETS have revealed that **We the People** students "significantly outperformed comparison students on every topic of the tests taken."
* Students involved in the **We the People** program develop greater commitment to democratic principles and values, according to a study by Richard Brody of Stanford University. The study concludes that the program is effective in promoting political tolerance because participating students feel more politically effective and perceive fewer limits on their own political freedom.
* "[T]eachers feel excited and renewed.... Students are enthusiastic about what they have been able to accomplish, especially in terms of their ability to carry out a reasoned argument. They have become energized about their place as citizens of the United States," say researchers from the Council for Basic Education
* A 2001 survey of **We the People** alumni revealed that they are better informed and participate at higher rates than their peers. The data suggests that voting rates are significantly higher among alumni than nonparticipating peers surveyed in the 2000 American National Election Study (NES). Eighty-two percent of **We the People** alumni voted in November 2000, in contrast to 48 percent turnout by peers.