

Overview of Semester

Grade 12: Participation in Government Curriculum

SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN
Unit 1 Foundations of American Democracy	Unit 2 Civil Rights and liberties	Unit 3 Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties of a Citizen	Unit 4 Political and Civic Participation	Unit 5 Public Policy: all levels of Government

Unit 1 Foundations of American Democracy	Understandings: Students will understand that... U1: the function of government is to provide order, protect public safety, regulate the economy and advance public welfare. U2: there are many different forms of government. U3: there are foundations to our government. U4: the idea of the rule of law applies to all citizens. U5: the constitution has changed over time and is subject to great debates.	Essential Questions: E1: How does the government affect you? E2: How do ideas shape governments? E3: How do ideas and values shape laws? E4: Does the rule of law apply equally to all citizens, and how has it changed? E5: How has American Democracy evolved over time?
Performance Task: Students will engage in a debate responding to this statement: “The founders of the constitution created a document that has adapted to changing times and protects the rights, and provides equal opportunity for all citizens.”		

Unit 2	Understandings	Essential Questions
Civil Rights and liberties	<p>Students will understand that...</p> <p>U1: the legal system is charged with upholding the ideals of equality before the law and the right to due process.</p> <p>U2: the ideals of the constitution aim to provide a balance between individual and group rights.</p> <p>U3: an independent judicial system should defend and interpret citizen’s freedoms and rights.</p> <p>U4: civil rights have expanded over time to include more citizens.</p> <p>U5: rights are not absolute and are restricted by circumstances and by region.</p> <p>U6: freedom of the press allows citizens to receive and interpret information representing different points of view.</p>	<p>EQ1: Do all citizens have equal treatment and due process before the law?</p> <p>EQ2: Should individual rights always take precedence over the rights of the majority?</p> <p>EQ3: Can any judge be completely impartial?</p> <p>EQ4: How is the road to civil rights long and wide?</p> <p>EQ5: To what extent should safety and protection be balanced with individual rights?</p> <p>EQ6: What is your responsibility as an informed citizen in understanding the speaker’s point of view?</p>
<p>Performance Task: Students will choose a group of citizens that have struggled to achieve equal opportunity and protection under the law. They will research their history and evaluate the extent to which they have achieved their goals. Students will write a paper, or create a visual representation to demonstrate their understanding.</p>		

Unit 3	Understandings	Essential Questions
Rights, Responsibilities, and Duties of Citizenship	<p>Students will understand that...</p> <p>U1: individual rights are balanced with a social responsibility to others.</p> <p>U2: suffrage has expanded to represent more Americans.</p> <p>U3: citizens can participate in a variety of ways to</p>	<p>EQ1: To what extent should citizens be obligated to help other?</p> <p>EQ2: Does your vote count?</p> <p>EQ3: Does the government use your tax dollars wisely?</p> <p>EQ4: What qualities do you want</p>

	influence their communities. U4: candidates for office create campaigns to reflect the needs and interests of their constituents.	in an elected official?
Performance Task: Students will complete 20 hours of service in their community. A variety of organizations and contacts will be provided for the student to access.		

Unit 4	Understandings	Essential Questions
Political and Civic Participation	Students will understand that... U1: there are different processes and mechanisms in the voting process. U2: the importance of being an informed voter. U3: there are many ways to participate in the electoral process. U4: political parties reflect different ideologies and their roles vary between the states.	EQ1: Should the candidate with the most votes always win? EQ2: Should all citizens be allowed to vote? EQ3: Should there be limits on how much money candidates can receive for individuals? EQ4: Do political parties help or hurt our representative democracy?
Performance Task: Students will work in groups to create an election campaign: including positions on the issues and strategies to win.		

Unit 5	Understandings	Essential Questions
<p>Public Policy: all levels of Government</p>	<p>Students will understand that...</p> <p>U1: each level of government has its own process for shaping, implementing, enforcing and amending public policy.</p> <p>U2: public policy seeks to balance regional with national needs, along with existing political positions and power.</p> <p>U3: implementation of public policy requires cooperation between various constituents and agencies.</p> <p>U5: citizens must be critical consumers of media to evaluate information on political issues.</p>	<p>EQ1: To what extent does interpretation play in the enforcing of public policy?</p> <p>EQ2: How does the process require compromise and how does this affect the policy?</p> <p>EQ3: To what extent do ideas and resources affect the implementation of public policy?</p> <p>EQ4: To what extent does the media influence the information you consume?</p>
<p>Performance Task: Students will prepare a public policy paper using standard APA format on an issue of their choosing.</p>		