

# Civics/Government Resources

## COURSE CONSIDERATIONS FOR HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS/GOVERNMENT

Using inquiry in civics, high school students explore how to become active citizens. To become engaged citizens requires a knowledge of the history, principles, and foundations of our republic. A comprehensive study of civics can be approached from many angles and perspectives with a focus on inquiry. A civics course can be organized in a variety of ways including thematic, chronological, or chrono-thematic. The course should include content from the following topics:

- Foundations of government including but not limited to the historical foundations and philosophical foundations of the American political system, the purpose and role of government, and where government gets its authority
- Structures and function of tribal, local, Arizona and other states, national, and international governments including but not limited to constitutional vs. non-constitutional governments, and how governments are organized, limits and powers of the legislative, judicial, and executive branch, and comparative governments
- Institutions of the national government including but not limited to Congress, the President and the bureaucracy, federal courts; and institutions of the state government including the legislature, governor and the bureaucracy, and the state courts
- Law-making process including the role of deliberation and compromise
- Media, interest groups, and political parties including but not limited to the how these linkage institutions connect the people to government and shape political and social interests, the role of the free press in the American political system, the origin and role of political parties, the two-party system, the role of third parties in American politics, and the social, political, and economic positions of American political parties in history and the present day
- Media Literacy including but not limited to roles of media, types of media, and media and consumer biases
- Elections, voting, and voting behavior including but not limited to political socialization, creation of legislative and congressional districts, opportunities for participation, campaigns, types of elections including primary process and general election process (local, state, and federal), laws governing elections, voter turnout, and barriers to voting
- Citizenship including rights, roles, and responsibilities of a citizen and the process for naturalization
- Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
- American political culture, values, and principles that are basic to American constitutional democracy and the republic such as individual rights, popular sovereignty, common good, patriotism, rule of law, freedom of conscience and expressions, privacy and civil society, justice, representative government, checks and balances, freedom of religion, civilian control of the military, and equality
- Public policy including researching current issues or policies at the local, state, or federal level
- Foreign Policy including but not limited to formation and implementation

**There are many topics to pursue in a Civics/Government course. LEAs should identify topical emphases to allow for depth of study needed to effectively engage student/learners in the inquiry process and to educate students about the roles and responsibilities of citizenship.**

| Resource                                | Website   | Description  |
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| Teach Mideast                           | <a href="http://teachmideast.org/">http://teachmideast.org/</a>   | Great free resources for educators and students centered on the Middle East that include lesson plans, tools, videos, and digital books. |
| Stanford History Education Group        | <a href="https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons">https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-lessons</a>         | Document-based resources for World History. Lessons include documents, PowerPoints, and handouts all available to edit.                  |
| History Assessments – Beyond the Bubble | <a href="https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-assessments">https://sheg.stanford.edu/history-assessments</a> | History assessments for World that use disciplinary skills and processes standards to assess students.                                   |

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| Arizona Geographic Alliance       | <a href="https://geoalliance.asu.edu/">https://geoalliance.asu.edu/</a>   | Lessons and resources with a geography focus. Lessons are searchable by topic and grade level.  |
| C3 Inquiry                        | <a href="http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/">http://www.c3teachers.org/inquiries/</a>   | Search by topic to find inquiries that cover the course considerations. Use all or part of the inquiries in your classes.   |
| Newsela                           | <a href="https://newsela.com/">https://newsela.com/</a>   | Current events searchable by topic, and grade level. Manipulate the lexile of the article to suit your students' needs.   |
| Digital Public Library of America | <a href="https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/">https://dp.la/primary-source-sets/</a>   | Primary source documents and lessons on world history. Many may be adapted for 6 <sup>th</sup> grade.   |
| Project Look Smart                | <a href="https://www.projectlooksharp.org/?action=main">https://www.projectlooksharp.org/?action=main</a>   | Sources and lessons organized by topic or by grade level and contains a media literacy focus. Many come with teacher and student guides.  |
| Facing History and Ourselves      | <a href="https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library">https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library</a>   | Collection of primary sources and teacher resources on a variety of topics.   |
| CommonLit                         | <a href="https://www.commonlit.org">https://www.commonlit.org</a>   | Search the library for texts on a variety of subjects. Sources and lessons searchable by lexile and include reading guides.   |
| Read Works                        | <a href="https://www.readworks.org/">https://www.readworks.org/</a>   | Similar to Newsela. Searchable sources for social studies with adaptable lexile levels. Great resource for many topics.   |
| Primary Source Nexus              | <a href="http://primarysourcenus.org/psn-resources/themed-link-sets/cps-social-studies/">http://primarysourcenus.org/psn-resources/themed-link-sets/cps-social-studies/</a> | Resource partnered with the Library of Congress. Searchable topics and grade levels and includes lessons.   |
| Teaching Tolerance                | <a href="https://www.tolerance.org/">https://www.tolerance.org/</a>   | Great K-12 lessons, posters, and film on civics, history, geography, and economics with a focus on tolerance and community.   |
| PBS Media Learning                | <a href="https://az.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/social-studies/">https://az.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/social-studies/</a>   | Interactives, videos, lessons, galleries, audio, images, and documents all for K-12. Search by topics in addition to grade level.   |
| EDSITEment                        | <a href="https://edsitement.neh.gov/">https://edsitement.neh.gov/</a>   | Lessons from the National Endowment for the Humanities. All lessons are searchable by grade level or subject/topic.   |
| Actively Learn                    | <a href="https://read.activelylearn.com/#teacher/catalog">https://read.activelylearn.com/#teacher/catalog</a>   | Primary and secondary materials that can be used in inquiry-based instruction.  |
| Docs Teach                        | <a href="https://www.docsteach.org/">https://www.docsteach.org/</a>   | Primary and secondary documents all curated from the National Archives  |
| The Smithsonian Museum            | <a href="http://smithsonianeducation.org/">http://smithsonianeducation.org/</a>   | Huge number of resources for many topics, not just social studies. Resources include lessons, video clips, and interactives. Read or watch the getting started guide to narrow your searches. |
| Teaching History.org              | <a href="https://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials">https://teachinghistory.org/teaching-materials</a>   | Searchable lessons and resources for K-12 as well as teacher methodologies.   |
| Teaching History with Technology  | <a href="http://thwt.org/">http://thwt.org/</a>   | Lessons, activities, multimedia and more for grades 6-12 on all social studies content areas.   |
| National Geographic History Site  | <a href="https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/history-civilization">https://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/history-civilization</a>                               | Quality National Geographic video clips for world history. Other content areas are available to search for as well.   |

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| Annenberg Learner                 | <a href="https://www.learner.org/">https://www.learner.org/</a>   | Annenberg Media's K-12 site for videos, lessons, and interactives. Other content areas are available as well.                           |
| The Choices Program               | <a href="https://www.choices.edu/teaching-with-the-news/">https://www.choices.edu/teaching-with-the-news/</a>   | Brown University's program of free lessons connected to current headlines.  |
| Zoom In                           | <a href="http://zoomin.edc.org/">http://zoomin.edc.org/</a>   | Lessons and resources for civics that focus on inquiry and historical thinking.   |
| Gilder Lehrman                    | <a href="https://www.gilderlehrman.org/">https://www.gilderlehrman.org/</a>   | Great site for U.S. primary sources and also will mail out free books and posters.  |
| Bill of Rights Institute          | <a href="https://billofrightsinstitute.org/educate/">https://billofrightsinstitute.org/educate/</a>   | Primary sources, webinars, and student resources geared towards the Bill of Rights.   |
| Primary Source Nexus              | <a href="https://primarysourcenus.org/primary-source-collections/themed-based-resources/cps-social-studies/">https://primarysourcenus.org/primary-source-collections/themed-based-resources/cps-social-studies/</a> | Library of Congress and Chicago Public Schools partnership that matches primary and secondary sources to different U.S. History themes. |
| National Geographic Education     | <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/">https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/</a>   | National Geographic resources, lessons, geotools, and videos for civics.  |
| Foreign Policy Research Institute | <a href="https://www.fpri.org/education/lesson-plans-teachers/">https://www.fpri.org/education/lesson-plans-teachers/</a>   | Lesson plans developed by teachers focusing on modern issues combining multiple disciplines.  |
| Constitutional Rights Foundation  | <a href="https://www.crf-usa.org/">https://www.crf-usa.org/</a>   | Simulations, resources, lessons, and a mailer with articles all geared toward civic engagement.   |
| iCivics                           | <a href="https://www.icivics.org/teachers">https://www.icivics.org/teachers</a>   | Curriculum units, lessons, and games all geared for civics with an inquiry focus.   |
| StreetLaw                         | <a href="https://www.streetlaw.org/programs/?catid=125">https://www.streetlaw.org/programs/?catid=125</a>   | Curriculum and lessons focused on case law from the Supreme Court.  |
| Newseum                           | <a href="https://newseumed.org/">https://newseumed.org/</a>   | Resources combining history, the media, and civics. Also has media literacy lessons and resources.                                      |
| GeoInquiries                      | <a href="https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/education/schools/geoinquiries-government">https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/education/schools/geoinquiries-government</a>                                       | Great 15 minute inquiries that lead students through an investigation of civics using geotools.   |