U.S Government

# essential understanding

An understanding of how the government works is vital to being successful in today’s world. As students learn about the purpose and function of government they can understand how and why governments respond to crises in certain ways. .



No man is good enough to govern another man without the other’s consent

- Abraham Lincoln

**overview**

Students in grade eleven and twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the life and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as The Federalist. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

**guiding question 5: How does the president use the powers the Constitution gives him?**

# lessons

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Executive branch

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Powers of the president

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Who advises the president?

# group work

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Choose a power that the President is given in Article II of the Constitution. As a group research what it means, how it has been used and provide examples. Discuss how this power is checked by other branches of the government. Due November 13/14

# individual work

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Read Article II of the Constitution. Prepare to participate in a socratic dialogue about the powers of the President. Due November 2/3

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Choose a current event or topic and write a letter to President Trump. Give a thoughtful explanation of your feelings and include a solution you have to the issue. Due November 6/7

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Choose a president from a list. Examine his presidency and answer questions about this president on classroom and be prepared to share your findings to the class. November 13/14

# assessment

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Write a one page paper about how the Executive Branch operates. Due November 16/17

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take a 10 question assessment about the Executive Branch. In class November 16/17

**guiding question 6: How does the Supreme Court influence people’s lives in the United States?**

# lessons

\_\_\_\_\_\_ The Judicial Branch

\_\_\_\_\_\_ What is the Supreme Court?

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Court cases that shaped our nation

# group work

\_\_\_\_\_\_ As a group choose a Supreme Court case that has had a major effect on the United

States. Approve your decision with Mr. G. Research this case using the handout

provided. Due December 7/8

Some points to consider are:

* + - What is the background of the case?
    - What legal issue does this case deal with?
    - What was the verdict of the case?
    - What impact did this have on U.S culture?

# individual work

\_\_\_\_\_\_Read Article III of the Constitution and participate in a socratic dialogue. Due November 27/28

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Choose one of four videos about the judicial system and summarize it in a paragraph. Prepare to present your paragraph to the class. Due November 30/December 1

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Select a judge that currently sits on the Supreme Court. Research about this judge and

Create an infographic on that judge. Due December 4/5

# assessment

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Write a one page minimum paper about the power of the judicial system and how it has changed the United States. Due December 7/8

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take a 10 question assessment about the Judicial branch. In class December 7/8

**guiding question 7: What rights are guaranteed with the amendments of the Constitution?**

# lessons

\_\_\_\_\_\_ How amendments are passed

\_\_\_\_\_\_The Bill of Rights

# group work

\_\_\_\_\_\_ As a group choose one of the following rights granted by the first and second amendments to the Constitution: Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of the Press, Freedom of Assembly, or Freedom of Petition. Due December 18/19

# individual work

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Choose an amendment from a list and answer questions about it. Prepare to present this information to the class. Due December 14/15

\_\_\_\_\_\_Outline the process of amending the constitution. Show how this occurs. Due December 18/19

# assessment

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take an in class assessment about the amendments and the process of amending the constitution. In class December 21/22

# final

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Take a final assessment answering questions about topics discussed during the semester

In class December 21/22