

New Jersey Department of Education
2006 Social Studies Standards Implementation Guide (SIG)

6.2. Civics: ALL STUDENTS WILL KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ROLES OF A CITIZEN IN THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

Grade 9-12

6.2.12.A. Civic Life, Politics and Government

2. Apply the concept of the rule of law to contemporary issues (e.g., impeachment of President Clinton, use of Executive Privilege, recess appointments to federal courts, the Senate's advise and consent process, and the use of litmus tests).
3. Analyze how individual responsibility and commitment to law are related to the stability of American society.
5. Discuss how participation in civic and political life can contribute to the attainment of individual and public good.
6. Evaluate ways that national political parties influence the development of public policies and political platforms, including political action committees, McCain-Feingold Act, platform committees, and political campaigns.
7. Analyze how public opinion is measured and used in public debate (e.g., electronic polling, focus groups, Gallup polls, newspaper and television polls) and how public opinion can be influenced by the government and the media.

Author Information

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Framework97 References

Origins and Principles of the US Constitution, pp. 61-63.
Apply Information About Public Issues to Evaluate Point of View, pp. 66-67.

National History Standard

Origins and Principles of the U.S. Constitution, pp. 61-63.
Apply Information About Public Issues to Evaluate Point of View, pp. 66-67.

National Standards for Civics and Government

- II. What Are the Foundations of the American Political System?
- III. How Does the Government Embody the Principles of American Democracy?

Content Overview

The NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards Cumulative Progress Indicators (CPIs)

examine the conflicts and compromises that have enabled the system based on the three branches of the national government to endure the complex issue of federalism or interactions of the national government and the states. Students continue to study the rule of law with specific instances to be reviewed. Students also examine how political parties function and how they influence public policy; the ways in which public opinion is measured; the importance of individual responsibility; and the significance of civic participation.

Essential Questions

What kinds of tensions can exist between the three branches of government?

How have these tensions been resolved ?

What are some examples of how any of the three branches have abused their powers?

How does one's acceptance of individual responsibility contribute to the stability of America?

How have the purposes of the national and state governments changed over time?

What is the importance of public opinion?

How is public opinion changed or influenced by the media?

How does media coverage contribute to voter turnout and results?

What is the importance of public opinion polls to election results?

Teaching Resources

The Bill of Rights Institute provides training, materials, lesson plans and videos on issues of federalism, reserved and shared powers, and views of the Founders. Some materials are free, some at cost. The agency provides a free, monthly newsletter on rights issues.

Assessment

Use a performance assessment activity with a group of students as follows:

Prompt: "You have been appointed to a citizen's group to do a survey on community issues in your township. Prepare a list of steps with details on how you would identify issues and sample opinion on these issues." Conduct the survey. Summarize the data and develop a presentation on the findings.

Teacher prepares a rubric to evaluate the resulting report.