



G-E-T High School Curriculum
Align, Explore, Empower
Scope and Sequence
American Government

Unit 1 - Values and Principles of American Constitutional Democracy

In this unit, students will ...

Analyze how constitutionalism attempts to preserve fundamental societal values, protects individual freedoms and rights, promotes the general welfare, and responds to changing circumstances and beliefs by defining and limiting the powers of government.

Analyze sources of governmental authority.

Standard

- Identify and analyze democratic principles and ideals.

Unit 2 - Origins and Foundations of the Government of the United States

In this unit, students will ...

Evaluate the work and actions of historically significant people and their contributions to the founding principles of the United States.

Analyze the foundational ideas of the United States government which are embedded in founding era documents.

Analyze landmark Supreme Court decisions regarding how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights limits the government, protects individual rights, supports the principle of majority rule, while protecting the rights of the minority, and promotes the general welfare.

Analyze the meaning and importance of rights in the Wisconsin Constitution, and compare/contrast to the United States Constitution.

Standard

- Identify and analyze democratic principles and ideals.

Unit 3- Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

In this unit, students will ...

Critique the struggle for suffrage and citizenship since the founding period.

Analyze the constitutional tension between protecting individual rights and promoting the general welfare and security of the country, as well as between majority rule and minority rights.

Assess the impact of individuals, groups, and movements on the development of civil rights for different groups.

Standard

- Examine and interpret rights, privileges, and responsibilities in society.

Unit 4- Fundamentals of Citizenship

In this unit, students will ...

Assess the difference in constitutional and legal protections for citizens vs. noncitizens.

Demonstrate the skills necessary to participate in the election process (i.e., registering to vote, identifying and evaluating candidates and issues, and casting a ballot).

Standard

- Examine and interpret rights, privileges, and responsibilities in society.

Unit 5- Asserting and Reaffirming of Human Rights

In this unit, students will ...

Analyze how the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the restriction and enabled the expansion of rights for groups.

Evaluate different goals and methods of groups who have advocated for access to greater rights (e.g., women,

religious groups, civil rights groups, Indigenous peoples, LGBTQ).

Analyze the role of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and nongovernment organizations (NGOs such as Save the Children or the Red Cross) in how human rights have been addressed in different countries.

Standard

- Examine and interpret rights, privileges, and responsibilities in society.

Unit 6- Political Participation

In this unit, students will ...

Create and evaluate solutions to increase voter participation.

Evaluate their role in government at the local, state, tribal, and federal levels.

Standard

- Analyze and evaluate the powers and processes of political and civic institutions.

Unit 7- Linkage Institutions

In this unit, students will ...

Evaluate the role of various types of media in elections and functions of government.

Analyze how the United States political system is shaped by political parties, elections and the election process, including the caucus and primary systems and procedures involved in voting.

Evaluate civic institutions and explain how competing interests impact societal change (e.g., lobbying, citizens groups, special interest groups).

Standard

- Analyze and evaluate the powers and processes of political and civic institutions.

Unit 8- Power in Government

In this unit, students will ...

Evaluate the structure and functions of governments at the local, state, tribal, national, and global levels.

Evaluate the purpose of political institutions at the local, state, tribal, national, global, and supranational/non-government organization (NGO) levels distinguishing their roles, powers, and limitations.

Standard

- Analyze and evaluate the powers and processes of political and civic institutions.

Unit 9- Public Policy

In this unit, students will ...

Evaluate the effectiveness of public policy actions and processes.

Standard

- Analyze and evaluate the powers and processes of political and civic institutions.

Unit10 - Argumentation, Compromise, Diplomacy, and Consensus Building

In this unit, students will ...

Create arguments by researching and interpreting claims and counterclaims.

Analyze the effects of a political compromise with major historical impact.

Standard

- Develop and employ skills for civic literacy.