

Teacher(s):
Time:

# CIVICS

## Course Organizer

Student:
Course Dates:

**This Civics Course is About:** How people in the US, Washington, and Yakima make decisions, govern themselves and address public problems. This course teaches students the importance of civic engagement to a democratic society, while examining current issues and the election process. This course emphasizes democratic principles such as equality, freedom, rule of law, respect for individual rights as well as individual responsibility, while also fostering diversity, teamwork, employability skills, and independent learning.

### ○ Course Questions:

- 1. What are Civic Life, Politics, and Government and what role do these play in American society?** Why are government and politics necessary? What purposes should the government serve? What are the essential characteristics of democratic and authoritarian governments? What are the nature and purposes of constitutions?
- 2. What is a constitution? A constitutional democracy? What does the US Constitution say about how America's government is supposed to work?** What core principles is the US Constitution based upon? What makes the US Constitution a living document? What areas of the Constitution are most controversial? How would differing interpretations impact various interest groups? How might you amend the Constitution if you could?
- 3. How are power and responsibility distributed, shared and limited in the government established by the US constitution?** What does the national government do? How are state and local governments organized and what do they do? Who are your representatives in the various levels of government? What current issues are creating conflict between various levels of government?
- 4. How does the American electoral system work at the national, state, and local levels?** What are the main political parties in America, and which one(s) do you identify most closely with? With which core economic and political principles are the main parties most closely associated? Is America's electoral system fair? What current issues are being debated this election cycle?
- 5. What is the relationship of the U.S. to other nations and to World Affairs?** How is the world organized politically? How has the U.S influenced other nations and how have other nations influenced American politics (policies) and society?
- 6. What role do Citizens play in American Democracy?** What is citizenship? What are the rights and responsibilities of citizens? Of non-citizens? How can citizens (and non-citizens) take part in civic life? What disposition or traits of character are important to the preservation and improvement of American constitutional democracy?

### ○ Course Standards:

#### **Content Themes defined by RCW 28A.230.093**

*Federalism* – Fed., state, & local govt. org. & procs.;  
*Civic Engagement, Citizenship & Constitutions*;  
*Current Issues* at each level of govt.  
*Electoral issues & politics*

C3 Framework for 12<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies standards;  
(See Civics Standards and Curriculum document)

**Process Goals** – increase and/or improve student skill levels in the following areas: civic engagement skills; reading news; writing and speaking persuasively & analytically, questioning skills; civil discourse skills; personal reflection skills.

# Course Map

# Civics

Student:

includes

## ○ Community Principles

Personal Responsibility  
 Rule of Law  
 Diversity  
 Teamwork  
 Empathy / Respect  
 Employability

## ○ Learning Rituals

Encouraging students to ask questions  
 Paying attention to the News  
 Class problem solving "Participation"  
 Vocabulary building  
 Reflection  
 Entry Tasks  
 Build map of most significant places in news during the year

## ○ Performance Options

Project Citizen or CBA  
 Mult. Variations of News Quiz or discussion  
 Analytical writing (ex: Mark-Up/Write-Up)  
 Debate / Mock Trial  
 Citizenship Pre/Post Test  
 Presentations

## ○ Critical Concepts

Citizenship, Civic Engagement, Civil Society, Federalism, Constitutional Democracy, Founding Docs & Principles (US Constitution) Separation of Powers, Checks and Balances, Authoritarian Rule, Media Literacy, Controversial Issues, Public Policy, Electoral politics, Fiscal policy, Private vs Public Sphere, Common Good

## ○ Learned in these Units

