

Background Knowledge

Florida is committed to helping students build background knowledge, so much so that it is codified in statute. Giving students the opportunity to read nonfiction and literary texts that reinforce and scaffold what they are learning in their content areas will give them the schema to which they can tie new learning.

Civic Literacy Reading List

These civic-focused texts are the source of building background knowledge and vocabulary in the lower grades and a rich study in rhetoric, reasoning, and argumentation in the upper grades.

They are designed to reinforce civics instruction by providing quality texts to which students can apply their developing reading and reasoning skills.

9th-12th Grade

Title	Author
1838 Florida Constitution	
<i>Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</i>	Franklin, Benjamin
<i>Civil Disobedience</i>	Thoreau, Henry David
<i>Commentaries on the Laws of England</i>	Blackstone, William
<i>Common Sense</i>	Paine, Thomas
Current Florida Constitution	
<i>Democracy in America</i>	de Tocqueville, Alexis
<i>English Declaration of Rights</i>	Parliament of England
<i>Federalist Papers</i>	Hamilton, Alexander; Madison, James; and Jay, John
For the Equal Rights Amendment (1969)	Chisholm, Shirley
<i>Land of Hope: An Invitation to the Great American Story</i>	McClay, Wilfred M.
Letter from Birmingham Jail	King, Martin Luther Jr.
<i>Leviathan</i>	Hobbes, Thomas

Magna Carta	King John of England and Archbishop of Canterbury Langton, Stephen
Mayflower Compact	Bradford, William
<i>Notes on the Constitutional Convention</i>	Madison, James
<i>Out of Order: Stories from the History of the Supreme Court</i>	O'Connor, Sandra Day
Second Inaugural Address (1865)	Lincoln, Abraham
<i>Second Treatise on Government</i>	Locke, John
Speech to Congress on Voting Rights (1965)	Johnson, Lyndon
The New Nationalism (1910)	Roosevelt, Theodore
<i>The Republic</i>	Plato
<i>The Spirit of the Laws</i>	Montesquieu
Virginia Declaration of Rights	Mason, George