

Grade 11 Civics & American Government - Unit 2 - Legitimacy of Power

Unit Focus

Concepts of power, influence, and control are inseparable from the study of government. Understanding both the source and legitimacy of power will help the student understand many of the foundational concepts of the American Constitutional Republic. To inform their exploration, students will study the early philosophers and the different theories on how power is allocated in a government and also where the legitimacy of power is based. Students will connect this concept to their selected issue being followed throughout the course, examining the people, groups, and government organizations that may have power, influence, or control relative to their issue, as well as whether these individuals should be in control of this issue.

Continuing with the theme of power, students will then look at various trends and events leading to the Declaration of Independence and American Revolution. This study will take place from multiple perspectives, considering both the viewpoints of the Patriots and Loyalists and their determination as to how to move towards the establishment of a new, independent nation. Students will journey through this process, understanding that the ineffectiveness of the Articles of Confederation would require "Constitutional compromises" from the powerful elite meeting together for a summer in Philadelphia. Much of what would come from these compromises represent not only a particular demographic perspective, but also a view of the ideological divide between Federalists and Antifederalists. Students will be prepared to have the same debate on Constitutional ratification, with the focus based on the question of where one places both power and trust when establishing consensus in government.

STAGE 1: DESIRED RESULTS – KEY UNDERSTANDINGS			
ESTABLISHED GOALS	TRANSFER		
Common Core Standards History/Social Studies: 11 919804 Reading History	T1 Pose and pursue question(s) to better understand an issue and draw conclusions or seek patterns based on a synthesis of evidence (Analyzing)		
 919805 Key Ideas and Details CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary 	T2 Apply historical knowledge to develop connections to other eras/situations or provide insight into a contemporary issue (Alternative Perspectives)		
sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to	T3 Evaluate diverse sources and points of view to determine what really happened (Alternative Perspectives)		
an understanding of the text as a whole. 919809 Craft and Structure	MEANING		
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.11-12.4 Determine the	UNDERSTANDINGS	ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS	
meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including analyzing how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term over the course of a text (e.g., how	U1 Students are historians, investigating and interpreting the past from a variety of perspectives.	Q1 What is the purpose of government? How do we balance personal freedoms and the common good?	
Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10). 919819 Writing History & Science 919837 Research to Build and Present Knowledge	U2 Historians use evidence and reasoning to draw conclusions about probable causes and effects, recognizing that these are multiple and complex.	Q2 How are human rights understood, interpreted, and applied throughout place and time?	
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.11-12.7 Conduct short		Q3 How does power impact the function of government?	
as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate;	U3 Humans beings have basic needs and rights. U4 Rules, laws, and processes help people make decisions on	Q4 How did this event occur? Why did this event occur?	

STAGE 1: DESIRED RESULTS – KEY UNDERSTANDINGS			
synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.	issues to balance individual freedoms and common good.	Q5 How do people and events of the past influence our understanding of ourselves and our world today?	
Performance Standards Social Studies: 11	ACQUISITION OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL		
1011233 DIMENSION 1: DEVELOPING QUESTIONS &	KNOWLEDGE	SKILLS	
 PLANNING INQUIRY INQ.912.2 Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and 	K1 The government philosophies of Locke, Rousseau, Hobbes, Montesquieu	S1 explaining points of agreement, disagreement, and interpretations	
applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question.	K2 The key events leading to American Revolution	S2 evaluating problem-solving techniques	
1011239 DIMENSION 2: APPLYING DISCIPLINARY CONCEPTS & TOOLS	K3 The significance of the Declaration of Independence	S3 analyzing the means of changing societies	
1011240 CivicsCIV.912.5 Evaluate citizens' and institutions'	K4 The successes and failures of the Articles of Confederation	S4 analyzing personal perspectives and how it shapes history	
effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national and/or international level.	K5 The difficulty and importance of constitutional compromises	S5 analyzing multiple causes and effects	
• CIV.912.17 Analyze historical, contemporary and	•	S6 citing textual evidence to support analysis	
emerging means of changing societies, promoting the common good, and protecting rights. 1011283 History	K6 The role played by Anti-federalists, as well as the impact of minority groups today	S7 analyzing the meaning of key terms in a text	
• HIST.912.5 Analyze how historical contexts shaped and continue to shape people's perspectives.	K7 Vocabulary: state of nature, natural rights, liberties, social contract, Popular Sovereignty, confederation, Constitution, ratification, federalism, republic	S8 researching and responding to debate questions	
Student Growth and Development 21st Century Capacities Matrix Critical Thinking • Analyzing: Students will be able to examine information/data/evidence to make inferences and identify possible underlying assumptions, patterns, and relationships. Global Thinking			
• Alternate Perspectives: Students will be able to interpret or critique complementary and competing approaches, experiences, and worldviews.			