

LESSON TITLE

Current Events and the Constitution - Vetak

LESSON GOAL(S)	ESSENTIAL QUESTION(S)
Create informed citizens and encourage civic engagement through the use of digital media by discussing current events in the context of the Constitution.	How can an informed discussion of civic issues lead to better decision making in a community?

CIVICS STANDARDS ALIGNMENT (STATE STANDARDS & C3 FRAMEWORK)

What standards from the NH State Standards and/or from the C3 are emphasized in the lesson?

STATE STANDARDS		C3 STANDARDS	
Nature and Purpose of Government	X	Civic & Political Institutions	
Structure of NH & U.S. Government		Participation & Deliberation	X
World and U.S.'s place in it		Process, Rules, and Laws	
Rights & Responsibilities			

COMMON CORE LITERACY STANDARDS

What Common Core Literacy Standards are emphasized in the lesson?

KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS	
CRAFT AND STRUCTURE	X
INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS	
RANGE OF READING AND LEVEL OF TEXT COMPLEXITY	

LESSON PLAN

Identify the steps needed to successfully facilitate the lesson plan

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Students will explore a current event topic with constitutional implications by addressing a discussion post question. 2) Before students may respond to the question they must do some research. Each student is required to look up either a Supreme Court case and or applicable constitutional amendment(s) based on the issue at hand. 3) Students must then search for online media coverage of the issue. At least one pro and one con article must be read and the links for all articles reviewed must be included in their posts. 4) Once students have completed their research they may answer the discussion post question.
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- 5) Upon completion of their informed opinion post students are required to respond to at least one other student's opinion.
- 6) The instructor must respond to each student's post. This response cannot be judgmental but should point out interesting points of view, good research, or challenge students by asking them pointed questions that they in turn may respond to as well.

ASSESSMENTS

What assessment tasks will students complete as the culmination of the lesson?

At the end of each quarter (or other time period for a posting cycle) have students look back at the various discussion posts developed by the class. Students should identify three instances of discussion posts that prompted them to reflect upon, or perhaps even change, their thinking on the issue and complete a written reflection.

For the three instances they identify they should discuss:

- A. Their original perspective
- B. The new perspective
- C. How the informed views of their peers prompted them to revisit their original perspective
- D. An explanation of their current perspective on the issue

Students should also include in their reflection a response to the following prompt: is community discussion of civic issues important for a society, or should a single body of authority make all final decisions?

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

Are there any other materials or outside resources that are needed to facilitate the lesson/assessment tasks?

Digital Citizenship Contract

(Crockett, Lee and Ian Jukes and Andrew Churches, *Literacy is Not Enough 21st-Century Fluencies for the Digital Age*. 21st Century Fluency Project Inc. 2011 pg. 82.)

Respect Yourself: I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will consider the information and images I post online. I will not post personal information about my life, experiences, experimentations, or relationships. I will not be obscene.

Protect Yourself: I will ensure that the information I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities. I will report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at me. I will protect passwords, accounts and resources.

Respect Others: I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to flame, bully, harass, or stalk other people. I will show respect for other people in my choice of web sites. I will not visit sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist, or inappropriate. I will not abuse my rights of access and I will not enter other people's private spaces or areas.

Protect Others: I will protect others by reporting abuse, not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications, and not visiting sites that are degrading, pornographic, racist, or inappropriate.

Respect Intellectual Property: I will respect the work and ideas of others by not claiming that work as my own. I will give proper and appropriate credit when I have borrowed from the work and or ideas of others.

Protect Intellectual Property: I will request to use the software and media others have produced. I will use free and open source alternatives rather than pirating software. I will purchase, license, and register all software. I will purchase my music and other media, and refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses. I will act with integrity.

By signing this agreement, I undertake to always act in a manner that is respectful to myself and others, and to act appropriately, and in a moral and ethical manner.

I, _____ (print your name) agree to follow the principles of digital citizenship outlined in this agreement and accept that failing to follow these tenets could have consequences.

Signature: _____ Date: ___ / ___ / _____