Unit 4 - Contemporary Issues in Law

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **January**
Length: **6 block classes**
Status: **Published**

Enduring Understandings

Students will examine one contemporary issue in depth to form an individual understanding and opinion, of the historical and current path, American government and law is travelling with respect to immigration, intellectual property or terrorism.

Essential Questions

IMMIGRATION:

- What are the processes and procedures involved in obtaining USA citizenship?
- What is the current public policy for dealing wth immigrants in America without legal status?
- Which level of government is responsible for immigration policy enforcement, the federal, state or both?

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

- How do patents, trademarks and copyright protect intellectual property?
- What are the challenges dealing with counterfeit goods?
- How has the world-wide-web become a grey area with respect to intellectual property?

TERRORISM:

- What are the American and international rules and laws concerning war with other states?
- How do the rules for war apply to terrorism and fighting a non-state actor?
- How is American to balance security interests with individual freedoms?

Skills

IMMIGRATION:

- Explain the requirements for the American naturalization process.
- Distinguish visitors and lawful residents with undocumented immigrants.

- Identify the requirements for asylum.
- Explain the federal and state powers in regards to immigration policy and enforcement.
- Form individual opinion on the current American immigration policy.
- Debate proposals for immigration policy and enforcement.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY:

- Explain the purpose and protection provided with patents, trademarks and copyrights.
- Examine the impact of counterfiet goods on American consumers, businesses and the government.
- Explain the laws currently outlining intellectual property on the internet and social media.
- Form opinons on the ownership of intellectual properties and ideas through the wold-wide web.

TERRORISM:

- Explain the Patriot Act of of 2008 and how updated in 2008.
- Analyze how the Patriot Act extends the government's reach in respect to seach and seizure?
- Discuss the role drones have played in the war against terror.
- Explain the rules for detainment and torture os suspected terrorists.
- Form opinions on the historic and current practices of torture.

Resources

Street Law: A Course in Practical Law textbook

The Constitution of the United States

US Government websites for immigration policy, property laws and Patriot Act

Media news sources

Standards

6.1.12.D.2.b Explain why American ideals put forth in the Constitution (i.e., due process, rule of law, and individual rights) have been denied to different groups of people throughout time.

6.1.12.D.15.d Analyze the reasons for terrorism and the impact that terrorism has had on individuals and government policies, and assess the effectiveness of actions taken by the United States and other nations to prevent terrorism

6.1.12.D.15.a Compare United Nations policies and goals (i.e., the International Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals) intended to promote human rights and prevent the

violation of human rights with actions taken by the United States.

6.1.12.C.14.b Judge to what extent government should intervene at the local, state, and national levels on issues related to the economy.

6.1.12.B.14.a Determine the impact of recent immigration and migration patterns in New Jersey and the United States on demographic, social, economic, and political issues.

6.1.12.A.16.c Assess from various perspectives the effectiveness with which the United States government addresses economic issues that affect individuals, business, and/or other countries.

6.1.12.A.16.b Analyze government efforts to address intellectual property rights, personal privacy, and other ethical issues in science, medicine, and business that arise from the global use of new technologies

6.1.12.A.16.a Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society

6.1.12.A.5.b Analyze the effectiveness of governmental policies and of actions by groups and individuals to address discrimination against new immigrants, Native Americans, and African Americans.

6.1.12.A.14.b Analyze how the Supreme Court has interpreted the Constitution to define the rights of the individual, and evaluate the impact on public policies.

6.1.12.A.14.c Assess the merit and effectiveness of recent legislation in addressing the health, welfare, and citizenship status of individuals and groups.

6.1.12.A.1.b Analyze how gender, property ownership, religion, and legal status affected political rights.

6.3.12.D.1 Analyze the impact of current governmental practices and laws affecting national security and/or individual civil rights/ privacy.

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SOC.6.1.12.A.14.c	Assess the merit and effectiveness of recent legislation in addressing the health, welfare, and citizenship status of individuals and groups.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.h	Assess the effectiveness of government policies in balancing the rights of the individual against the need for national security.
SOC.6.1.12.A.16.a	Examine the impact of media and technology on political and social issues in a global society.
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