Unit 2: Legal Reasoning & Problem Solving

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Title Section

Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

Introduction to Legal Studies

Grades 9-10

Legal Reasoning and Problem Solving

Belleville Board of Education

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Unit Overview

In this Unit students will learn legal reasoning skills necessary for creative and effective problem-solving. Students will develop advocacy skills to enable them to build persuasive arguments to support their conclusions. Students will work independently and in cooperative groups and learn how to *gather* all pertinent information, *organize* that information and *present* the information to resolve a problem or dispute. Legal reasoning also provides a language tool, which enables people of different beliefs and worldviews to arbitrate their differences in a way that is acceptable to all. Students will learn to gather information by doing research and asking questions to develop a complete understanding of the problem. Students will learn to organize the information collected and determine which information is relevant. Lastly, students will develop public speaking necessary to present the information and make a persuasive argument.

Enduring Understanding

- People have different views and opinions that influence their view of a problem or dispute.
- The need to ask questions in order to fully develop an understanding of a problem or dispute.
- How people can work together to resolve a problem or dispute.
- There are different strategies for critical thinking & problem solving.
- Effective problem solving includes the following;

1. The ability to conceptualize problems
2. The ability to brainstorm (and question) ideas in a group
3. The ability to combine and integrate information from disparate sources
4. The ability to break down and understand complex content
5. The ability to solve problems by staying current and up-to-date in new technologies.

Essential Questions

- How do I identify the issue or problem?
- Why is it important to gather information from disparate sources?
- How do I break down and understand complex issues and problems?
- How do I incorporate new technologies when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?
- What are the different strategies for critical thinking and problem solving?
- What questions will enable me to develop a full understanding of a problem or issue?
- How do I interact with people who have different personal, political, or cultural views than mine, when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?
- What are effective strategies for gathering information when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?
- What are effective strategies for organizing information when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?
- What are effective strategies for presenting information when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?
- What are effective strategies for building a persuasive argument when trying to resolve a problem or dispute?

Exit Skills

By the end of this Unit students will be able to:

- Interact, either one on one or in a cooperative group, with people who have different views and opinions about a problem or dispute.
- Ask appropriate questions in order to fully develop an understanding of a problem or dispute.
- Work together, in a cooperative group, to resolve a problem or dispute.
- Indentify different strategies for critical thinking & problem solving.
- Conceptualize problems or disputes.
- Brainstorm (and question) ideas in a group
- Combine and integrate information from disparate sources to resolve a dispute or problem
- Break down and understand complex problems or disputes.
- Solve problems by staying current and up-to-date in new technologies.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S)

9.3.LW.1	Analyze the nature and scope of the Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security Career Cluster and the role law, public safety, corrections and security play in society and the economy.
9.3.LW-ENF.5	Analyze the impact of federal, state and local laws on law enforcement procedures.
9.3.LW-LEG.1	Demonstrate effective communication skills (e.g., writing, speaking, listening and nonverbal communication) in the legal services environment.
9.3.LW-LEG.2	Interpret nonverbal communication cues in order to discern facts from fabrication.
9.3.LW-LEG.3	Produce written legal materials using writing strategies applicable to the legal services environment.
9.3.LW-LEG.4	Apply information technology tools to perform daily tasks assigned to legal services professionals.
9.3.LW-LEG.6	Use legal terminology to communicate within the legal services community.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.a	Assess the importance of the intellectual origins of the Foundational Documents (i.e., Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and Bill of Rights) and assess their importance on the spread of democracy around the world.
SOC.6.1.12.A.2.d	Explain how judicial review made the Supreme Court an influential branch of government, and assess the continuing impact of the Supreme Court today.

Interdisciplinary Connections

LA.RH.11-12.4	Determine the 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 Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).
LA.RH.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, qualitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RH.11-12.9	Integrate information from diverse sources, both primary and secondary, into a coherent understanding of an idea or event, noting discrepancies among sources.
LA.RST.11-12.6	Analyze the author's purpose in providing an explanation, describing a procedure, or discussing an experiment in a text, identifying important issues that remain unresolved.
LA.WHST.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.WHST.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this Unit students will be able to;

- Interrelate, either one on one or in a cooperative group, with people who have different views and opinions about a problem or dispute.
- Formulate appropriate questions in order to fully develop an understanding of a problem or dispute.
- Indentify different strategies for critical thinking & problem solving.
- Conceptualize problems or disputes.
- Brainstorm (and question) ideas in a group
- Combine and integrate information from disparate sources to resolve a dispute or problem
- Identify complex problems or disputes.

Effective Learning Objectives Used in Lesson Planning:

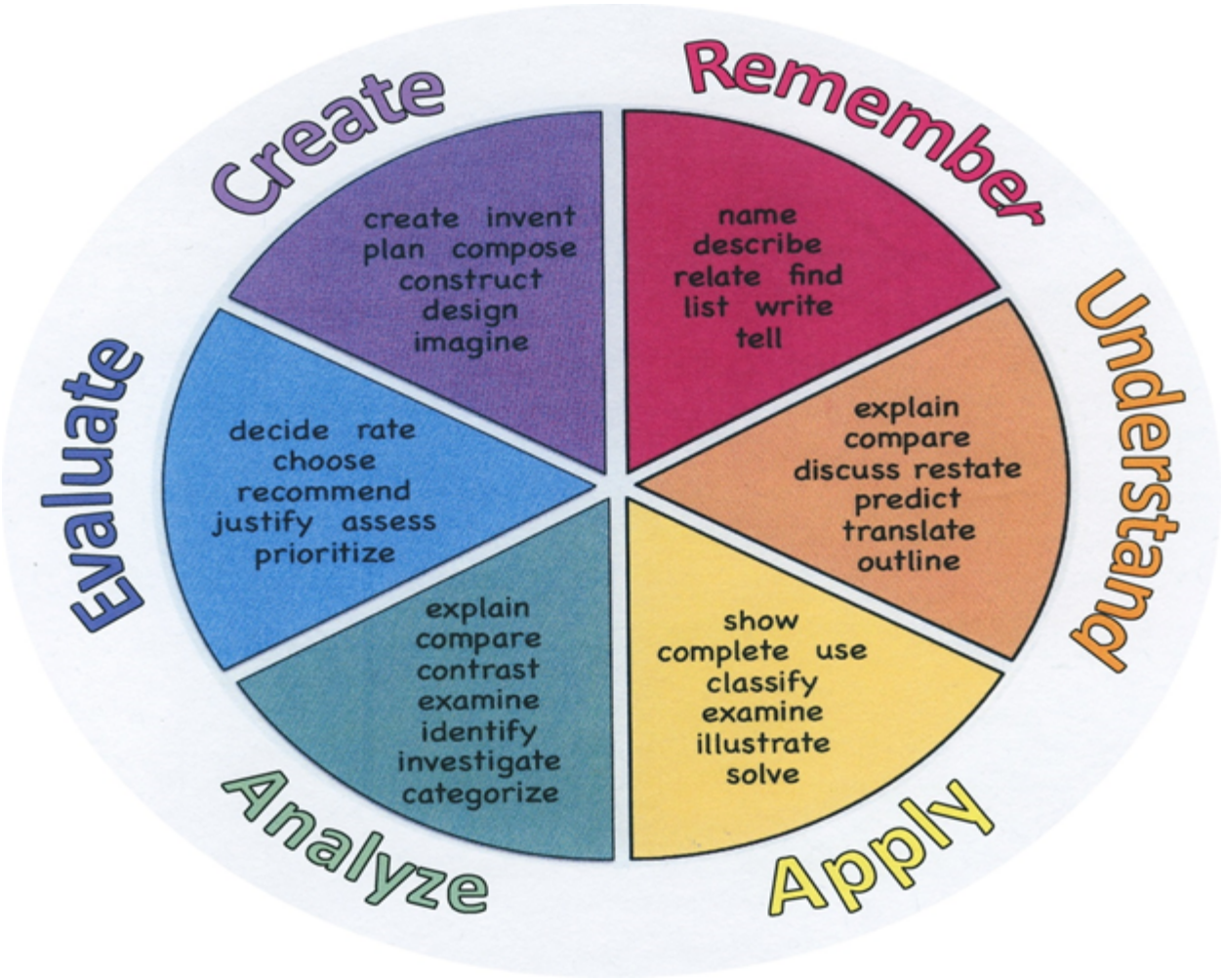
- Begin with an action verb from one or more of Bloom's Taxonomy castegories listed below;
- Are measurable and/or observable, using action verbs, such as "differentiate," "classify," "justify;"
- Are not vague or passive verbs, such as "understand," "remember;"
- Increase the use of of verbs from Bloom's Taxonomy's higher order thinking categories, including **Analyze** and **Evaluate**
- Construct authentic learning activities and assessments that are derived from the Bloom's Taxonomy category - **Create**
- Minimize the use of lower order thinking categories - Remember and Understand.

Examples:

- **Identify** nutrients found in common food sources using the product's nutrition label;
- Use computer dietary analysis to assess a 2-day dietary intake and **categorize** the results;
- **Research** nutrition-related information on the internet and **evaluate** the reliability of the information.

Action Verbs: Below are examples of action verbs associated with each level of the Revised Bloom's Taxonomy.

Remember	Understand	Apply	Analyze	Evaluate	Create
Choose	Classify	Choose	Categorize	Appraise	Combine
Describe	Defend	Dramatize	Classify	Judge	Compose
Define	Demonstrate	Explain	Compare	Criticize	Construct
Label	Distinguish	Generalize	Differentiate	Defend	Design
List	Explain	Judge	Distinguish	Compare	Develop
Locate	Express	Organize	Identify	Assess	Formulate
Match	Extend	Paint	Infer	Conclude	Hypothesize
Memorize	Give Examples	Prepare	Point out	Contrast	Invent
Name	Illustrate	Produce	Select	Critique	Make
Omit	Indicate	Select	Subdivide	Determine	Originate
Recite	Interrelate	Show	Survey	Grade	Organize
Select	Interpret	Sketch	Arrange	Justify	Plan
State	Infer	Solve	Breakdown	Measure	Produce
Count	Match	Use	Combine	Rank	Role Play
Draw	Paraphrase	Add	Detect	Rate	Drive
Outline	Represent	Calculate	Diagram	Support	Devise
Point	Restate	Change	Discriminate	Test	Generate
Quote	Rewrite	Classify	Illustrate		Integrate
Recall	Select	Complete	Outline		Prescribe
Recognize	Show	Compute	Point out		Propose
Repeat	Summarize	Discover	Separate		Reconstruct
Reproduce	Tell	Divide			Revise
	Translate	Examine			Rewrite
	Associate	Graph			Transform
	Compute	Interpolate			
	Convert	Manipulate			
	Discuss	Modify			
	Estimate	Operate			
	Extrapolate	Subtract			
	Generalize				
	Predict				



Suggested Activities & Best Practices

Guidelines for Suggested Activities:

- Includes activities **appropriate & specific** to the development of the Unit;
- Is comprised of the variety of learning activities that will be referenced in lesson plans, constructed/developed and instructionally delivered in the classroom;
- Are authentic;
- Recognizes the learning styles of the students;
- Integrates problem- or project-based learning.

- Reading and outlining text, cases, legal disputes
- Teacher/student oriented class discussion regarding past and present legal

disputes
- Peer debate
- Reaction Papers involving current event issues
- Answering and debating Discussion Questions
- Use of e-learning platform (Google Classroom) to extend learning environment beyond classroom.
- Legal Vocabulary
- Role play/Mock Trial Projects

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

By identifying the **Evidence of Student Learning with Checking for Understanding (CFU)** techniques used during the lesson and/or for Closure (Madeline Hunter), please list the variety of means used to access students' learning (e.g. quizzes, tests, academic prompts, observations, homework, journals).

- Students will create outlines that will be reviewed and revised based on PowerPoint Presentation and class discussion-alternate assessment
- Checklists and Google Classroom will be used to review student work for comprehension and understanding
- Reviewing Reaction Papers and observation during ensuing class discussion
- Unit tests including outline review-summative assessment
- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Oral Presentations/Mock Trial activities
- Admit/Exit tickets-formative assessment
- Create a Multimedia poster-benchmark assessment

- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Illustration
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide

- Teacher Observation Checklist
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

Please list all district-provided Primary Resources & Materials and/or those outside that are accessed with district resources.

- Textbook
- internet
- PowerPoint Software
- E-Learning Platform (Google Classroom)
- Smart T.V.
- Mock Trial Resources

Ancillary Resources

Please list all additional resources that will be used to strengthen this unit's lessons.

- Research Materials
- Courtroom
- Video/Audio equipment for recording Courtroom Presentations

Technology Infusion

- Internet research on Legal Reasoning problem solving techniques
- PowerPoint presentations
- Chromebooks
- E-Learning Platform (Google Classroom)
- Video/Audio equipment for recording courtroom presentations

What **Technology Infusion** and/or strategies are integrated into this unit to enhance learning? Please list all hardware, software and

strategies. Please find a technology pedagogy wheel for assistance while completing this section.



Alignment to 21st Century Skills & Technology

Mastery and infusion of **21st Century Skills & Technology** and their Alignment to the core content areas is essential to student learning. The core content areas include:

CRP.K-12.CRP1.1	Career-ready individuals understand the obligations and responsibilities of being a member of a community, and they demonstrate this understanding every day through their interactions with others. They are conscientious of the impacts of their decisions on others and the environment around them. They think about the near-term and long-term consequences of their actions and seek to act in ways that contribute to the betterment of their teams, families, community and workplace. They are reliable and consistent in going beyond the minimum expectation and in participating in activities that serve the greater good.
CRP.K-12.CRP4.1	Career-ready individuals communicate thoughts, ideas, and action plans with clarity, whether using written, verbal, and/or visual methods. They communicate in the workplace with clarity and purpose to make maximum use of their own and others' time. They are excellent writers; they master conventions, word choice, and organization, and use effective tone and presentation skills to articulate ideas. They are skilled at interacting with others; they are active listeners and speak clearly and with purpose. Career-ready individuals think about the audience for their communication and prepare accordingly to ensure the desired outcome.
CRP.K-12.CRP5.1	Career-ready individuals understand the interrelated nature of their actions and regularly make decisions that positively impact and/or mitigate negative impact on other people, organization, and the environment. They are aware of and utilize new technologies, understandings, procedures, materials, and regulations affecting the nature of their work as it relates to the impact on the social condition, the environment and the profitability of the organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP6.1	Career-ready individuals regularly think of ideas that solve problems in new and different ways, and they contribute those ideas in a useful and productive manner to improve their organization. They can consider unconventional ideas and suggestions as solutions to issues, tasks or problems, and they discern which ideas and suggestions will add greatest value. They seek new methods, practices, and ideas from a variety of sources and seek to apply those ideas to their own workplace. They take action on their ideas and understand how to bring innovation to an organization.
CRP.K-12.CRP7.1	Career-ready individuals are discerning in accepting and using new information to make decisions, change practices or inform strategies. They use reliable research process to search for new information. They evaluate the validity of sources when considering the use and adoption of external information or practices in their workplace situation.
CRP.K-12.CRP11.1	Career-ready individuals find and maximize the productive value of existing and new technology to accomplish workplace tasks and solve workplace problems. They are flexible and adaptive in acquiring new technology. They are proficient with ubiquitous technology applications. They understand the inherent risks-personal and organizational-of technology applications, and they take actions to prevent or mitigate these risks.
CRP.K-12.CRP12.1	Career-ready individuals positively contribute to every team, whether formal or informal. They apply an awareness of cultural difference to avoid barriers to productive and positive interaction. They find ways to increase the engagement and contribution of all team

	members. They plan and facilitate effective team meetings.
TECH.8.1.12.D	Digital Citizenship: Students understand human, cultural, and societal issues related to technology and practice legal and ethical behavior.
TECH.8.1.12.D.4	Research and understand the positive and negative impact of one's digital footprint.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS1	Advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

Please list only the **21st Century/Interdisciplinary Themes** that will be incorporated into this unit.

- Communication and Collaboration
- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical thinking and Problem Solving
- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

LA.RH.11-12.1	Accurately cite strong and thorough textual evidence, (e.g., via discussion, written response, etc.), to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to develop an understanding of the text as a whole.
LA.RST.11-12.2	Determine the central ideas, themes, or conclusions of a text; summarize complex concepts, processes, or information presented in a text by paraphrasing them in simpler but still accurate terms.
LA.RST.11-12.7	Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., quantitative data, video, multimedia) in order to address a question or solve a problem.
LA.RST.11-12.9	Synthesize information from a range of sources (e.g., texts, experiments, simulations) into a coherent understanding of a process, phenomenon, or concept, resolving conflicting information when possible.
LA.WHST.11-12.4	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
LA.WHST.11-12.5	Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.
LA.WHST.11-12.6	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce, share, and update writing products in response to ongoing feedback, including new arguments or information.
LA.WHST.11-12.7	Conduct short 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; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
LA.WHST.11-12.8	Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

21st Century Skills

Please list only the **21st Century Skills** that will be incorporated into this unit.

- Civic Literacy
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Global Awareness

Differentiation

Please remember: Effective educational **Differentiation** in a lesson lies within content, process, and/or product. Please identify the ones that will be employed in this unit.

- Students will be given additional time for completion of assignments or assessments.
- Cooperative grouping to enhance and elevate student productivity.
- Use of visual and auditory presentations to introduce and support lesson delivery.

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Study guides
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations

- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Leveled rubrics
- Multiple texts
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Varied supplemental materials

Differentiations:

- Small group instruction
- Small group assignments
- Extra time to complete assignments
- Pairing oral instruction with visuals
- Repeat directions
- Use manipulatives
- Center-based instruction
- Token economy
- Study guides
- Teacher reads assessments allowed
- Scheduled breaks
- Rephrase written directions
- Multisensory approaches
- Additional time
- Preview vocabulary
- Preview content & concepts
- Story guides
- Behavior management plan
- Highlight text
- Student(s) work with assigned partner
- Visual presentation
- Assistive technology
- Auditory presentations

- Large print edition
- Dictation to scribe
- Small group setting

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

- Alternative formative and summative assessments
- Choice boards
- Games and tournaments
- Group investigations
- Guided Reading
- Independent research and projects
- Interest groups
- Learning contracts
- Leveled rubrics
- Literature circles
- Multiple intelligence options
- Multiple texts
- Personal agendas
- Project-based learning
- Problem-based learning
- Stations/centers
- Think-Tac-Toes
- Tiered activities/assignments
- Tiered products
- Varying organizers for instructions

Lo-Prep Differentiations

- Choice of books or activities
- Cubing activities
- Exploration by interest
- Flexible grouping
- Goal setting with students
- Jigsaw
- Mini workshops to re-teach or extend skills
- Open-ended activities
- Think-Pair-Share
- Reading buddies
- Varied journal prompts
- Varied supplemental materials

Special Education Learning (IEP's & 504's)

Please identify the **Special Education Learning** adaptations that will be employed in the unit, using the ones identified below.

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- highlighted text visual presentation
- modified assignment format
- modified test content
- modified test format
- modified test length
- multi-sensory presentation
- multiple test sessions
- preferential seating
- preview of content, concepts, and vocabulary
- Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
- reduced/shortened reading assignments
- Reduced/shortened written assignments
- secure attention before giving instruction/directions
- shortened assignments
- student working with an assigned partner
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

Please identify the **English Language Learning** adaptations that will be employed in the unit, using the ones identified below.

- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarif
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning;
- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- tutoring by peers
- using computer word processing spell check and grammar check features

- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests

At Risk

Please identify Intervention Strategies that will be employed in the unit, using the ones identified below.

- allowing students to correct errors (looking for understanding)
- teaching key aspects of a topic. Eliminate nonessential information
- allowing products (projects, timelines, demonstrations, models, drawings, dioramas, poster boards, charts, graphs, slide shows, videos, etc.) to demonstrate student's learning
- allowing students to select from given choices
- allowing the use of note cards or open-book during testing
- collaborating (general education teacher and specialist) to modify vocabulary, omit or modify items to reflect objectives for the student, eliminate sections of the test, and determine how the grade will be determined prior to giving the test.
- decreasing the amount of workpresented or required
- marking students' correct and acceptable work, not the mistakes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- tutoring by peers
- using authentic assessments with real-life problem-solving
- using true/false, matching, or fill in the blank tests in lieu of essay tests
- using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

Talented and Gifted Learning (T&G)

Please identify the **Talented and Gifted** adaptations that will be employed in the unit, using the ones identified below.

- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Higher order, critical & creative thinking skills, and discovery
- Multi-disciplinary unit and/or project
- Teacher-selected instructional strategies that are focused to provide challenge, engagement, and growth opportunities

- Utilize exploratory connections to higher-grade concepts
- Utilize project-based learning for greater depth of knowledge

Sample Lesson

Using the template below, please develop a **Sample Lesson** for the first unit only.

Unit Name:

- Unit 2 Legal Reasoning and Problem Solving

NJSLS:

- See Link Below

Interdisciplinary Connection:

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Reading- Informative text/vocabulary
- Writing-analysis/evaluation

Statement of Objective:

- SWDAT listen effectively in order to manage receipt of orally communicated information and demonstrate verbal and oral communications skills for communicating effectively in legal services environments **by** participating in mock trial. Students participating in trial will work cooperatively to make a persuasive oral presentation advocating for their side. Teams will conduct direct and cross examination. Students will earn a rubric score of at least 90 for their participation in mock trial.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now:

- Review direct and cross examination questions

Learning Activity:

- Role play; Mock Trial oral presentation; conduct direct and cross examination of witnesses and present evidence to jury

Student Assessment/CFU's:

- See Link Below

Materials:

- Mock Trial Materials

- Internet
- PowerPoint
- Lap-Tops

21st Century Themes and Skills:

- See Link Below

Differentiation:

- See Link Below

Integration of Technology:

- PowerPoint
- Internet
- Google Classroom
- Class Webpage