Unit 1 Understanding the Political Process

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Department of Curriculum and Instruction

Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

American Government: Law Making, Democracy, and Civic Engagement

Grades 9-12

Unit 1: Understanding the Political Process

Belleville Board of Education

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Board Approved:

Unit Overview

In this Unit students will identify interest groups and compare and contrast the positive and negative aspects of interest groups such as public interest research groups, lobbies, and political action committees. Students will also examine the role of political parties in the U.S. system of government, discuss the functions of the two-party system, compare and contrast the role of third parties in the United States, and identify opportunities for citizens to participate in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels. Students will compare and contrast interests of various individuals, groups, and their representatives, and explore options for promoting tolerance toward individuals and groups. As a unit culminating activity, students will discuss mediation techniques, suggest alternative proposals to keep discussions from collapsing, and discuss methods of openness for decision-making or problem-solving processes. Students will use a provided a step-by-step process in an attempt to gain political support for community planning issues.

Enduring Understanding

Students will learn that the political process depends on the input of the people. Input comes from various public interest groups supporting different ideas and views. Students will examine the role of political parties in the U.S. system of government and discuss the functions of the two-party system. Ultimately students will discover that tolerance and openness for decision-making or problem-solving can be achieved without compromising personal beliefs or opinions through mediation techniques.

Essential Questions

What are public interest groups?

What are political action committees?

What are lobbies?

What is the role of political parties in the U.S. system of government?

How does the two party system work?

What is the role of third parties in the United States?

What opportunities are there for citizens to participate in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels?

How can we promote tolerance toward individuals and groups?

Exit Skills

By the end of Unit 1 students will demonstrate the ability to;

Compare and contrast interests of various individuals, groups, and their representatives;

Explore options for promoting tolerance toward individuals and groups;

Employ mediation techniques;

Suggest alternative proposals that keep discussions from collapsing; and

Discuss methods of openness for decision-making or problem-solving processes.

Identify interest groups.

Compare and contrast the positive and negative aspects of interest groups such as public interest research groups, lobbies, and political action committees.

Explain the role and function of political parties in the U.S. system of government.

Recognize the role of political parties in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels;

Identify opportunities for citizens to participate in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS-S)

SOC.6.1.12.A.3.g	Determine the extent to which state and local issues, the press, the rise of interest-group politics, and the rise of party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.
SOC.6.1.12.A.8.c	Relate social intolerance, xenophobia, and fear of anarchists to government policies restricting immigration, advocacy, and labor organizations.
SOC.6.1.12.A.10.c	Evaluate the short- and long-term impact of the expanded role of government on economic policy, capitalism, and society.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.a	Evaluate the effectiveness of the checks and balances system in preventing one branch of national government from usurping too much power during contemporary times.
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.d	Analyze the conflicting ideologies and actions of political parties regarding spending priorities, the role of government in the economy, and social reforms.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.f	Determine the extent to which nongovernmental organizations, special interest groups, third party political groups, and the media affect public policy.
SOC.6.1.12.A.14.g	Analyze the impact of community groups and state policies that strive to increase the youth vote (i.e., distribution of voter registration forms in high schools).
SOC.6.3.12.A.1	Develop a plan for public accountability and transparency in government related to a particular issue(s) and share the plan with appropriate government officials.

Interdisciplinary Connections

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.RH.11-12.3	Evaluate various perspectives for actions or events; determine which explanation best accords with textual evidence, acknowledging where the text leaves matters uncertain.
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.8	Analyze the influence of the three branches of the U.S. Government (judicial, legislative

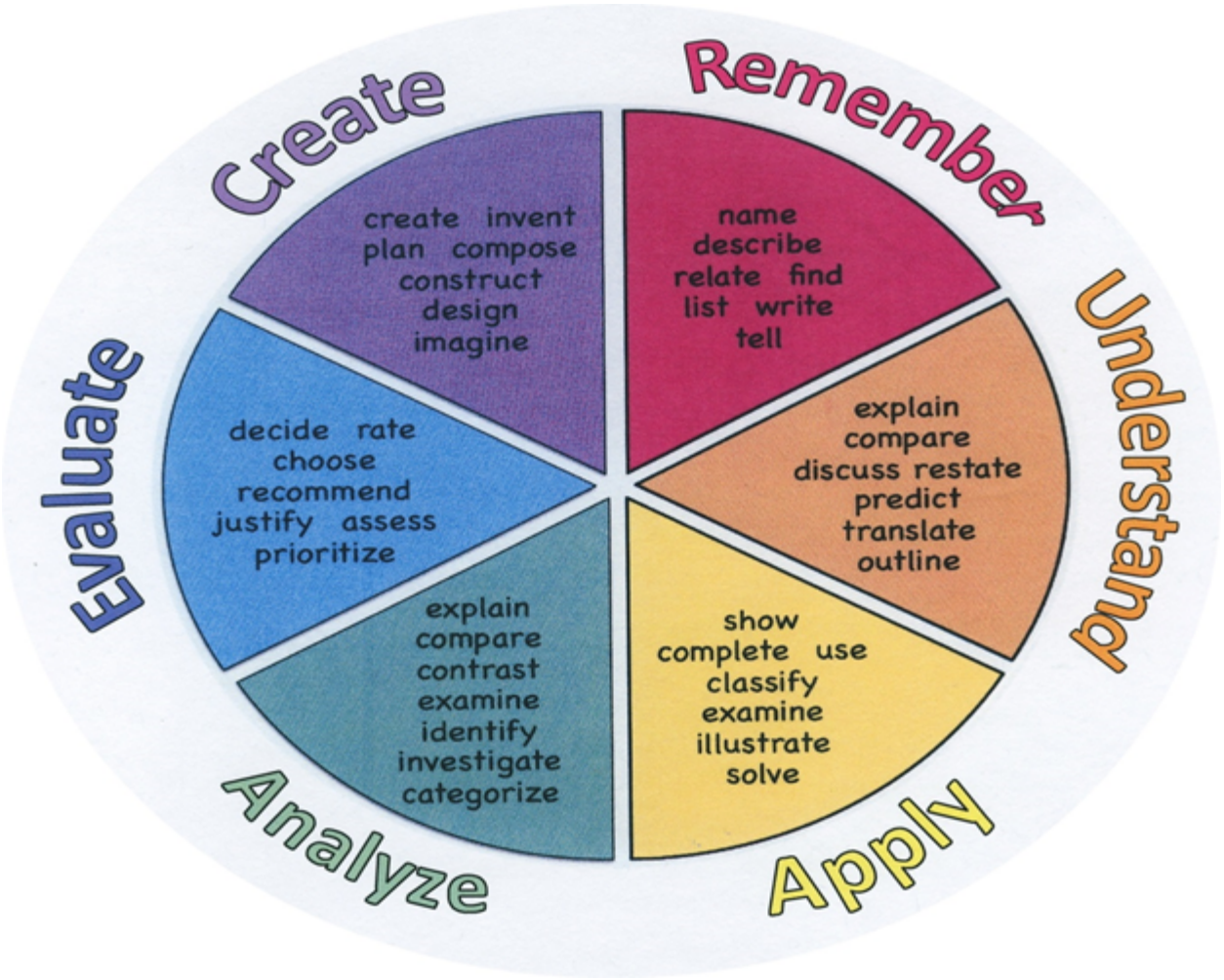
and executive) on the legal services.

Learning Objectives

- Identify public interest groups and political action committees.
- Implement mediation techniques to promote tolerance toward individuals and groups.
- Suggest alternative proposals that keep discussions from collapsing.
- Identify and evaluate the positive and negative aspects of interest groups such as public interest research groups, lobbies, and political action committees.
- Explain the role and function of political parties in the U.S. system of government.
- Identify opportunities for citizens to participate in the electoral process at the local, state, and national levels.
- Participate in electoral process at the local, state, and national levels.

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

- Continued use and development of e-learning platform using Google Classroom, Oncourse and other web based services.
- Reading and outlining text and other e-material
- Using outline templates and PowerPoint presentations to reinforce student learning
- Teacher oriented class discussion
- Reaction Papers addressing relevant topics and current event issues
- Answering Discussion Questions and Unit/Lesson assessment questions

Assessment Evidence - Checking for Understanding (CFU)

- KWL exercise-formative
- Cumulative outline of all lessons in Unit 1
- Reaction Papers on current event issues-alternate
- End-of-Unit exam-summative

- Admit Tickets
- Anticipation Guide
- Common Benchmarks
- Compare & Contrast
- Create a Multimedia Poster
- DBQ's
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Evaluation rubrics
- Exit Tickets
- Explaining
- Fist- to-Five or Thumb-Ometer
- Illustration
- Journals
- KWL Chart
- Learning Center Activities
- Multimedia Reports
- Newspaper Headline
- Outline
- Question Stems
- Quickwrite
- Quizzes
- Red Light, Green Light
- Self- assessments
- Socratic Seminar
- Study Guide
- Surveys
- Teacher Observation Checklist

- Think, Pair, Share
- Think, Write, Pair, Share
- Top 10 List
- Unit review/Test prep
- Unit tests
- Web-Based Assessments
- Written Reports

Primary Resources & Materials

- E-Text and resources
- Research and internet articles
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Smart T.V./District provided laptop
- E-Learning Platform;

-Google Classroom
-Oncourse
-Quia Web-based testing
-ClassLink

Ancillary Resources

- BHS Courtroom and video system (Room 240)
- BHS Law Library (Room 240)

Technology Infusion

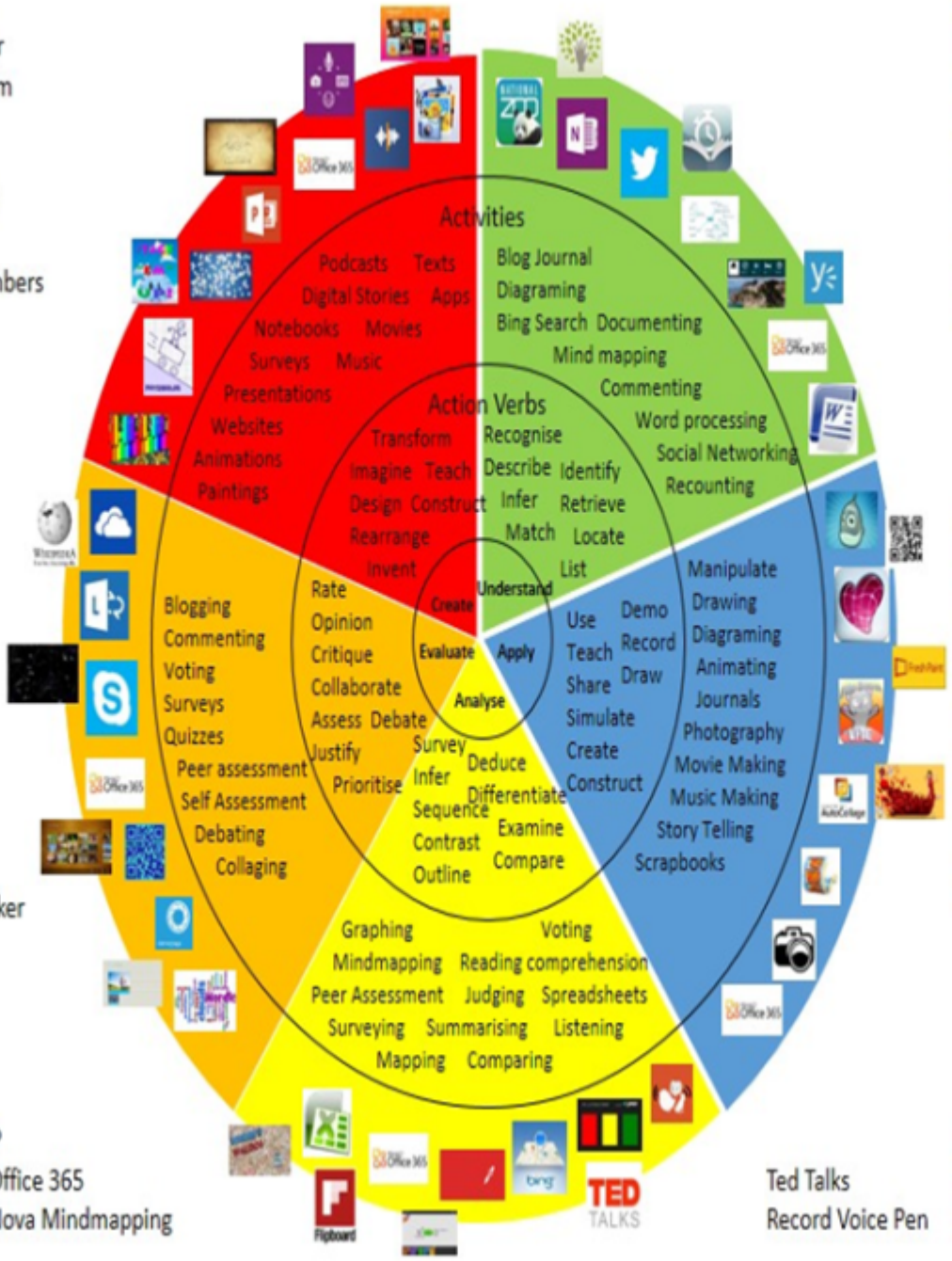
- E-Text and resources
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Smart T.V./District provided laptop
- Video/Audio equipment for recording and reviewing classroom presentations
- E-Learning Platform;

-Google Classroom
-Oncourse
-Quia Web-based testing
-ClassLink

Win 8.1 Apps/Tools Pedagogy Wheel

Podcasts
Photostory 3
Kid Story Builder
Music Maker Jam
Paint A Story
Office 365
MS PowerPoint
Stack 'Em Up
NqSquared Numbers
Physamajig
Xylophone 8

Wikipedia
Skydrive
Lync
SkyMap
Skype
Office 365
Puzzle Touch
Easy QR
Memorylage
Life Moments
Word Cloud Maker



Where's Waldo?
MS Excel
Flipboard
Office 365
Nova Mindmapping

Ted Talks
Record Voice Pen

Originally taken from http://www.coetail.com/vzimmer/files/2013/02/iPadagogy-Wheel.001.jpg
And adapted for Windows 8.1 devices by Charlotte Beckhurst @CharBeckhurst

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:

- English Language Arts;
- Mathematics;
- Science and Scientific Inquiry (Next Generation);
- Social Studies, including American History, World History, Geography, Government and Civics, and Economics;
- World languages;
- Technology;
- Visual and Performing Arts.

9.2.12.CAP.3	Investigate how continuing education contributes to one's career and personal growth.
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.CRP10.1	Career-ready individuals take personal ownership of their own education and career goals, and they regularly act on a plan to attain these goals. They understand their own career interests, preferences, goals, and requirements. They have perspective regarding the pathways available to them and the time, effort, experience and other requirements to pursue each, including a path of entrepreneurship. They recognize the value of each step in the education and experiential process, and they recognize that nearly all career paths require ongoing education and experience. They seek counselors, mentors, and other experts to assist in the planning and execution of career and personal goals.
TECH.8.1.12.D.CS2	Demonstrate personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

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
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy

- Information Literacy
- Life and Career Skills
- Media Literacy

9.1.12.EG.3	Explain how individuals and businesses influence government policies.

21st Century Skills

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

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

9.2.12.CAP.2	Develop college and career readiness skills by participating in opportunities such as structured learning experiences, apprenticeships, and dual enrollment programs.

Differentiation

Differentiations:

Small group instruction

Extra time to complete assignments

Pairing oral instruction with visuals

Study guides

Hi-Prep Differentiations:

Alternative formative and summative assessments

Guided Reading

Independent research and projects

Project-based learning

Lo-Prep Differentiations

Jigsaw

Open-ended activities

Think-Pair-Share

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)

- Modified assignments
- Additional time for assignments and assessments

- printed copy of board work/notes provided
- additional time for skill mastery
- assistive technology
- behavior management plan
- Center-Based Instruction
- check work frequently for understanding
- computer or electronic device utilizes
- extended time on tests/ quizzes
- have student repeat directions to check for understanding
- 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
- teacher initiated weekly assignment sheet
- Use open book, study guides, test prototypes

English Language Learning (ELL)

- Providing assignments/assessments in native language
- Decreasing the amount of work presented or required
- Tutoring by peers
- Providing study guides

- 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
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- modifying tests to reflect selected objectives
- providing study guides
- reducing or omitting lengthy outside reading assignments
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- 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

- Guided outlining and open outline assessments
- Tutoring by peers
- Using videos, illustrations, pictures, and drawings to explain or clarify

- 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
- having peers take notes or providing a copy of the teacher's notes
- 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
- reducing the number of answer choices on a multiple choice test
- 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)

- Providing additional project based learning opportunities for in-depth analysis

- Above grade level placement option for qualified students
- Advanced problem-solving
- Allow students to work at a faster pace
- Cluster grouping
- Complete activities aligned with above grade level text using Benchmark results
- Create a blog or social media page about their unit
- Create a plan to solve an issue presented in the class or in a text
- Debate issues with research to support arguments
- Flexible skill grouping within a class or across grade level for rigor
- 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

Unit Name:
Unit 1 Understanding the Political Process

NJSLS:

See Link Below

Interdisciplinary Connection:

Critical Thinking

Problem Solving

Reading- Informative text/vocabulary

Writing-analysis/evaluation

Statement of Objective:

SWDAT identify the role of political parties in the U.S. system of government **by** reading and outlining Unit 1-1. Students will complete the outline with 100% accuracy.

Anticipatory Set/Do Now:

Read Unit 1-1 Introduction

Learning Activity:

T/O Class Discussion; Read and outline Unit 1-1.

Student Assessment/CFU's:

See Link Below

Materials:

e-text Unit 1-1

Internet access

PowerPoint

Lap-Tops

21st Century Themes and Skills:

See Link Below

Differentiation:

See Link Below

Integration of Technology:

PowerPoint Presentation

Internet

Chromebook

Google Classroom/Oncourse