

Unit 1 Understanding the Political Process

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Belleville Public Schools

Curriculum Guide

**American Government: Law Making, Democracy, and Civic Engagement
(BHS Law Academy)**

Unit 1-Understanding the Political Process

Grade 11

Belleville Board of Education

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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. Students will analyze legislation and case law on women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities and how these groups have contributed to the American economy, politics and society. Students will assess the responses of the United States and other nations to the violations of human rights throughout history and comprehend the personal and legal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens. Students will evaluate the government response to climate change and the effects of global warming on environment.

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. All people have the personal and legal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens. Appreciation for the various ways women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities have contributed to the American economy, politics and society. Recognize the responsibilities of the United States and other nations to respond to the violation of human rights that occurred during the Holocaust and other genocides. Recognize the origins of the antislavery movement and the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision, on the movement. Evaluate the government response to

climate change and the effects of global warming on environment.

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?
- What is the personal and legal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism?
- How have women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities contributed to the American economy, politics and society?
- How have the United States and other nations responded to the violation of human rights that occurred during the Holocaust and other genocides?
- What are the origins of the antislavery movement and what has been the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision, on the movement?
- What is and has been the government's response to climate change and the effects of global warming on environment?

Exit Skills

By the end of this Unit 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.
- Comprehend the personal and legal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens.
- Identify the various ways women, racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ community, and individuals with disabilities have contributed to the American economy, politics and society.
- Discuss the responses of the United States and other nations to the violation of human rights that occurred during the Holocaust and other genocides.
- Comprehend the origins of the antislavery movement and the impact of particular events, such as the Amistad decision, on the movement.

- Evaluate the government response to climate change and the effects of global warming on environment.

New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSL-S)

	Civic and political institutions address social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national, and/or international level.
SOC.6.1.12.CivicsPI.3.a	Analyze primary and secondary sources to determine the extent to which local and state issues, publications, and the rise of interest group and party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.
SOC.6.1.12.HistoryCA.3.a	Use evidence to demonstrate how states' rights (i.e., Nullification) and sectional interests influenced party politics and shaped national policies (i.e., the Missouri Compromise and the Compromise of 1850).
SOC.6.1.12.HistoryCA.7.a	Determine the extent to which propaganda, the media, and special interest groups shaped American public opinion and American foreign policy during World War I and compare those factors to contemporary American involvement in another country.
SOC.6.1.12.CivicsDP.14.a	Draw from multiple perspectives and cite evidence to determine the extent to which nongovernmental organizations, special interest groups, third party political groups, and the media affect public policy.

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.
PFL.9.1.12.CFR.2	Summarize causes important to you and compare organizations you seek to support to other organizations with similar missions.
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.
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.
PFL.9.1.12.EG.3	Explain how individuals and businesses influence government policies.
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.
WRK.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.
TECH.9.4.12.CI.1	Demonstrate the ability to reflect, analyze, and use creative skills and ideas (e.g.,

1.1.12prof.CR3a).

TECH.9.4.12.CI.2

Identify career pathways that highlight personal talents, skills, and abilities (e.g., 1.4.12prof.CR2b, 2.2.12.LF.8).

TECH.9.4.12.CT.2

Explain the potential benefits of collaborating to enhance critical thinking and problem solving (e.g., 1.3E.12profCR3.a).

TECH.9.4.12.DC.3

Evaluate the social and economic implications of privacy in the context of safety, law, or ethics (e.g., 6.3.12.HistoryCA.1).

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

- Use of the e-learning platform using web based services for classroom management and lesson delivery
- Reading and outlining text and other e-material
- Using outline templates and PowerPoint presentations to reinforce student outlines
- Teacher oriented class discussion
- Reaction Papers addressing legal topics and current event issues
- Answering Discussion Questions and Unit/Lesson assessment questions
- Legal Vocabulary Review
- Create graphic organizer depicting structure of Federal Court system and the Court System of the State of New Jersey
- Create graphic organizer depicting the four levels of government in New Jersey
- Analyze and discuss legislation, policy making, case law, and current event issues addressing;
 - The effects of global warming on the environment

- The political, economic, and social contributions of persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people
- The Holocaust and genocides and the personal responsibility that each citizen bears to fight racism and hatred whenever and wherever it happens
- The contributions of African-Americans to our country

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-Textbook: American Government: Law Making, Democracy, and Civic Engagement
- Access to Legal periodicals such as NJSBF Legal Eagle and database resources such as Newsela, Mackin Educational Resources
- Internet access for legal research on current event issues
- Presentation tools such as a Smart T.V.
- E-Learning Platform (Student Information Systems i.e. Power School/Schoology, Edmentum)

Ancillary Resources

- BHS Courtroom
- BHS Law Library
- Video equipment for recording courtroom trials and activities

Technology Infusion

- Access to a cloud-based Student Information System (i.e. PowerSchool) and learning management system (i.e. Schoology)
- Presentation tools to aid in lesson delivery (i.e. Smart T.V.)
- Chromebooks for student use
- Video/Audio equipment for recording and reviewing courtroom presentations
- Quia Web-based testing
- ClassLink
- Edmentum

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.

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.
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.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.
WRK.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.
WRK.9.2.12.CAP.6	Identify transferable skills in career choices and design alternative career plans based on those skills.
TECH.9.4.12.CT	Critical Thinking and Problem-solving
TECH.9.4.12.CT.2	Explain the potential benefits of collaborating to enhance critical thinking and problem solving (e.g., 1.3E.12profCR3.a).

21st Century Skills/Interdisciplinary Themes

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
 - Communication and Collaboration
 - Information Literacy
 - Media Literacy
 - Life and Career Skills
-
- 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

21st Century Skills

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

Differentiation

Differentiations:

Guided outlining and open outline assessments

Project-based learning

Problem-based learning

Cooperative grouping to enhance and elevate student productivity during legal research projects such as mock trial hearings

Use of visual and auditory presentations to introduce and support lesson delivery

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
 - Students will work in cooperative groups to prepare Unit outline
 - Students will use Unit outline to complete Unit assignments and assessments
 - Students will work cooperatively to resolve legal disputes using Legal Reasoning problem solving skills
 - Provide modifications as dictated in the student's IEP/504 plan
-
- 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 clarify
 - 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 work presented 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 work presented 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)

- Students will use Legal Reasoning problem solving skills to resolve legal disputes
 - Demonstrate self-directed learning, thinking, research, and communication skills
 - Look for extension ideas that challenge the student to delve deeper into the subject
 - Students will identify current legal issues and debate both in favor of and opposed to the issue.
 - Students will lead threaded discussions on various legal topics
 - Students will work in groups to represent each side of legal dispute and present arguments to student jurors
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- 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:

Student questions and answers during mock trial

Students will create **Opening Statements** that will be reviewed and revised based on Mock Trial Presentation and class discussions-Alternate assessment

Checklists and the E-learning platform will be used to review student work for comprehension and understanding

Unit 1-1 Quiz-Summative Assessment

Evaluation rubrics for writing, oral presentations-Formative Assessment

Engage in Mock Trial debate of current event legal issues-Benchmark Assessment

Materials:

E-Textbook

E-Learning Platform (Student Information System, i.e. Power School/Schoology)

Presentation tools to aid lesson delivery (i.e. Smart TV, PowerPoint)

Lap-Tops for students

21st Century Themes and Skills:

Civic Literacy

Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy

Differentiation:

Students will be given additional time for completion of assignments or assessments

Cooperative grouping to enhance and elevate student productivity during legal research projects

Use of visual and auditory presentations to introduce and support lesson delivery

Use of web based resources and databases that provide structured reading levels and read aloud options

Integration of Technology:

Presentation tools to aid lesson delivery (i.e. Smart TV, PowerPoint)

E-learning platform

PFL.9.1.12.EG.3

Explain how individuals and businesses influence government policies.

SOC.6.1.12.CivicsPI.3.a

Analyze primary and secondary sources to determine the extent to which local and state issues, publications, and the rise of interest group and party politics impacted the development of democratic institutions and practices.

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.

TECH.9.4.12.CT.1

Identify problem-solving strategies used in the development of an innovative product or practice (e.g., 1.1.12acc.C1b, 2.2.12.PF.3).