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"When you see something that is not right, you must say something. You must do something.

Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we called the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself."

John Lewis, Congressman and Civil Rights Activist (2020)

# <u>The Philosophical Foundations of the United States Political System</u>

#### **The Government of Ancient Athens**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Athenian Democracy and 21st Century Digital Government-Before and after the Pandemic
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: The Legend of Pheidippides, the Heraean Games, and First American Runners in the Boston Marathon and the Olympics</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: How Can School Classrooms Become More Democratic Spaces?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Democracy in Social Media Platforms and Community Standards

## **The Government of the Roman Republic**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Roman Government and Roman Engineering and Public Works Projects
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Spartacus and Slavery in the Roman World, Toussaint L'Ouverture, and Black American Slave Revolts</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: What Latin Words and Phrases Should Every Student Know?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: The Internet as a Public Utility

## **Enlightenment Thinkers and Democratic Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and their Influence on Government
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Mary Wollstonecraft, Olympe De Gouges, and the Rights of Women</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: Who Were History's Most Important Women Change-Makers in Math, Science, and Politics?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: 21st Century Women STEM Innovators

## **British Influences on American Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Mayflower Compact, Colonial Governments, and Who Voted in Early America
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Lucy Terry Prince, Anne Hutchinson and Mary Dyer: Women's Roles in Colonial America</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: Should 16 or 17 Year-Olds Be Allowed to Vote?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Media Coverage of the Royals

#### **Native American Influences on American Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Iroquois Confederacy and the Great Law of Peace
- 2. UNCOVER: The Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag Massacre OR the Battle of Great Falls
- 3. ENGAGE: How to Evaluate a Person's Place in History: Jeffrey Amherst and the Case of the Smallpox Blankets
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Representations of Native Americans in Film, Local History
     Publications and School Mascots

# TOPIC 2: The Development of United States Government [Standards 8.T2.1-5]

## The Revolutionary Era and the Declaration of Independence

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Seneca Falls Convention and the Declaration of Sentiments (1848)
- 2. UNCOVER: Eleanor Roosevelt and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- 3. ENGAGE: What Do Other Declarations of Independence Declare?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Declarations of Independence on Social Media

#### The Articles of Confederation

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Government Under the Articles of Confederation
- 2. UNCOVER: Shays' Rebellion and the Coming of the Constitution
- 3. <u>ENGAGE</u>: How Much Power Should the Federal Government Have in the 21st Century? The Case of Self-<u>Driving Cars and Trucks</u>
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Marketing and Regulating Self-Driving Cars and Trucks

#### **The Constitutional Convention**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Great Compromise: The Virginia and New Jersey Plans
- 2. UNCOVER: Thomas Jefferson's Draft Constitution (1776) and Thurgood Marshall's Bicentennial Speech (1987)
- 3. ENGAGE: Did the Three-Fifths Compromise Make the Constitution a Pro-Slavery Document?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Analyzing Media Stereotypes Toward African Americans

#### **Debates Between Federalists and Anti-Federalists**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Federalist-Anti-Federalist Debates
- 2. UNCOVER: Abigail Adams, Mercy Otis Warren, and the Political Roles of Women
- 3. ENGAGE: Who Should Have Primary Responsibility for Environmental Policies?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Investigating Political Debates Through Songs from the musical Hamilton

## **Articles of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Articles of the Constitution and the Many Bills of Rights in United States History
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: W.E.B. DuBois, the Niagara Movement, and the History of the NAACP</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: What Are the Most Influential Documents in America's Multicultural History
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: The Bill of Rights on Twitter

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## The Branches of the Government and the Separation of Powers

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Federalism and the Three Branches of the Government
- 2. UNCOVER: Shirley Chisholm, African American Politician and Presidential Candidate
- 3. ENGAGE: Should Puerto Rico or Washington, D.C. Be a 51st State?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Analyzing Political Films About the Branches of Government

#### **Checks and Balances Between the Branches**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Checks and Balances, Presidential and Parliamentary Systems, Powers of the U.S. Presidency
- 2. UNCOVER: The War Powers of the President
- 3. ENGAGE: When and For What Should a President Be Impeached?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Writing an Impeachment Press Release

## The Roles of Congress, the President, and the Courts

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Executive Branch and the President
  - 1.1 UNCOVER: The FBI in American Politics
  - 1.2 ENGAGE: Can a Woman Be Elected President of the United States?
- 2. INVESTIGATE: The Legislative Branch
  - 2.1 UNCOVER: Electing LGBTQIA Legislators
- 3. INVESTIGATE: The Federal Judicial Branch and State Courts
  - 3.1 ENGAGE: What Supreme Court Cases Should All Teenagers Know?
    - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Exploring How Members of Congress Use Social Media

### **Elections and Nominations**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Presidential Elections, the Popular Vote, and the Electoral College
- 2. UNCOVER: 2000 and Other Disputed Elections in United States History
- 3. ENGAGE: Is It Time to Adopt Instant Runoff/Ranked Choice Voting?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Understanding Public Opinion Polls

#### **The Role of Political Parties**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Party System, Political Parties Today, and the 2020 Census
- 2. UNCOVER: Radical Political Parties in United States Politics: Populists, Socialists, and Black Panthers
- 3. ENGAGE: Should Voters Join a Political Party?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Website Design for New Political Parties

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## **Becoming a Citizen**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Becoming a Citizen Through Immigration Gateways and Ports of Entry
- 2. UNCOVER: Citizenship for Puerto Ricans
- 3. ENGAGE: When Should Someone Be Granted Asylum in the United States?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Immigration in the News

## **Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens and Non-Citizens**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Rights of Citizens and Non-Citizens
- 2. UNCOVER: The Internment of Japanese Americans During World War II
- 3. <u>ENGAGE</u>: Should Fred Korematsu and Other Individuals Who Fought for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Have a <u>National Day of Recognition?</u>
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Portrayals of Immigrants in Television and Film

## Civic, Political, and Private Life

- 1. INVESTIGATE: People's Lives and Government Responses to COVID-19
- 2. UNCOVER: Women's Political Participation Around the World
- 3. ENGAGE: Should the U.S. Adopt Universal Basic Income (UBI) or Guaranteed Employment as National Policies?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: COVID-19 Information EvaluationUNCOVER: Women's Political Participation Around the World
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Women Political Leaders in the Media

## **Fundamental Principles and Values of American Political and Civic Life**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Fundamental Principles and Values of American Life
- 2. UNCOVER: The Importance of the 14th Amendment
- 3. ENGAGE: What Are Students' Rights at School?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Online Messaging by Special Interest Groups

## **Voting and Citizen Participation in the Political Process**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Who Votes and Who Does Not in the United States
- 2. UNCOVER: Voter Suppression and Barriers to Voting
- 3. ENGAGE: How Would You Get More People, Especially Young People, to Vote?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Digital Games for Civic Engagement

#### **Election Information**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Persuasion, Propaganda, and Political Language in Elections
- 2. UNCOVER: Presidential Debates in U.S. Politics
- 3. ENGAGE: Should There Be Public Financing of Elections?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Social Media and Elections
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Media Spin in the Coverage of Political Debates

## **Leadership and the Qualities of Political Leaders**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Frances Perkins, Margaret Sanger, and Harvey Milk: Three Examples of Political Leadership
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, and Black Inventors' Contributions to Math, Science</u> and Politics
- 3. ENGAGE: Who Do You Think Are the Most Famous Americans?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Celebrities' Influence on Politics

## **Cooperation Between Individuals and Leaders**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Contacting Congress
- 2. UNCOVER: Youth Activists and Change Makers
- 3. ENGAGE: Would You Join a Consumer Boycott or Buycott to Promote Change?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Political Activism Through Social Media

## **Public Service as a Career**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Working for Local, State and Federal Government
- 2. UNCOVER: A Short History of American Public Education
- 3. ENGAGE: Is Teaching a Career for You?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Media Recruitment of Public Sector Workers
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Images of Teachers and Teaching

## <u>Liberty in Conflict with Equality or Authority</u>

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Movements for Civil Rights in United States History
  - The Long Civil Rights Movement for African Americans
  - The Women's Rights Movement
  - The LGBTQIA Rights Movement
  - The Labor Movement
- 2. UNCOVER: Queen Liliuokalani and the American Annexation of Hawaii
- 3. ENGAGE: What are Transgender Students' Rights at School?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Representing Trans Identities in the Media

## Political Courage and Those Who Affirmed or Denied Democratic Ideals

- 1. INVESTIGATE: When American Ideals Were Affirmed
  - Joseph Cinque, John Quincy Adams, and the Amistad Case
  - The Scopes Trial and the Debate Over Darwin's Origin of the Species
  - Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, Larry Itliong and the Delano Grape Strike and Boycott
- 2. UNCOVER: Claudette Colvin and the Browder v. Gayle case
- 3. ENGAGE: When and How Were American Ideals Denied?
  - 1. The January 6, 2021 Insurrection at the Capitol and the 1898 Wilmington Massacre
  - 2. The Reconstruction Era
  - 3. The Indian Wars of the American West
  - 4. McCarthyism and the Anti-Communist Red Scare
  - 5. The Anti-Gay Lavender Scare of the 1950s
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Media Framing of the Events of January 6, 2021

#### The Role of Political Protest

- 1. <u>INVESTIGATE</u>: <u>Mohandas Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Doctrine of Nonviolence Protest and Civil</u> Disobedience
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Three Historical Examples of Political Protest</u>
  - 2.1 The Stonewall Uprising (1969)
  - 2.2 Mother Jones and the March of the Mill Children (1903)
  - 2.3 The Standing Rock Pipeline Protest (2016-2017)
- 3. ENGAGE: Can Books and Music Express Political Protest?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Music as Protest Art

#### Public and Private Interest Groups

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Special Interest Groups, Political Action Committees (PACs and SuperPACs), and Labor Unions
- 2. UNCOVER: The Pullman Strike of 1894 and the History of Labor Day
- 3. ENGAGE: What Role Does Money Play in our Elections?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: PACs, Super PACs, and Unions in the Media

## <u>TOPIC 5: The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court</u> [Standards 8.T5.1-6]

## **The Necessary and Proper Clause**

#### **Amendments to the Constitution**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Prohibition and the 18th and 21st Amendments
- 2. UNCOVER: Alice Paul and the History of the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment)
- 3. ENGAGE: What New Amendments to the Constitution are Needed Today?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: The Equal Rights Amendment on Twitter and other Social Media

# <u>Constitutional Issues Related to the Civil War, Federal Power, and Individual Civil Rights</u>

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Missouri Compromise, the Dred Scott Case, the 54th Volunteer Regiment During the Civil War, and Juneteenth National Independence Act
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Harriet Tubman, William Still, and the Underground Railroad</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: Whose Faces Should Appear on U.S. Currency?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Civil War News Stories and Recruitment Advertisements
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Representations of Gender and Race on Currency

## <u>Civil Rights and Equal Protection for Race, Gender and Disability</u>

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Race -The 1964 Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- 2. INVESTIGATE: Gender Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1970
  - 2.1 ENGAGE: When can girls and boys compete together in athletic events?
- 3. INVESTIGATE: Disability The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990
  - 3.1 UNCOVER: Helen Keller, author and political activist
    - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: The Equality Act on Twitter

## Marbury v. Madison and the Principle of Judicial Review

- 1. INVESTIGATE: John Marshall and Marbury v. Madison
- 2. UNCOVER: The Trail of Tears, Chief John Ross, and Supreme Court Cases involving Native Americans
- 3. ENGAGE: Do Supreme Court Dissents Make a Difference to the Law?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Reading Supreme Court Dissents Aloud

## **Significant Supreme Court Decisions**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: First Amendment Rights: Landmark Cases
  - 1.1 UNCOVER: Tinker v. Des Moines and the Boundaries of Student Speech in Schools
- 2. INVESTIGATE: Due Process and Equal Rights: Mendez v. Westminster (1947)
- 3. INVESTIGATE: Rights in Conflict: The U.S. Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance
  - 3.1 ENGAGE: Is Kneeling during the National Anthem an Effective Form of Political Protest?
- 4. INVESTIGATE: Rights in Conflict: School Prayer
- 5. INVESTIGATE: Rights in Conflict: National Security
- 6. INVESTIGATE: Rights in Conflict: Gun Control
  - 6.1 ENGAGE: What Steps Should Communities and Governments Take to Reduce Gun Violence?
    - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Television Cameras in Courtrooms

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### **Functions of State and National Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Powers of State and National Government and the Tensions Between Them
- 2. UNCOVER: Native American Tribal Governments
- 3. ENGAGE: Should More States Adopt Part-Time Citizen Legislatures?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Native American Mascots and Logos

#### **United States and Massachusetts Constitutions**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Powers and Restrictions on Powers of the Government
- 2. UNCOVER: Elizabeth Freeman (Mum Bett) and the Abolition of Slavery in Massachusetts
- 3. ENGAGE: Should the Government Pay Slavery Reparations for African Americans?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: A Constitution for the Internet

## **Enumerated and Implied Powers**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Enumerated and Implied Powers of the U.S. Constitution
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Federal Minimum Wage Laws, Young Workers, and the Implied Powers of Congress</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: Should the Nation Adopt a Living Wage Rather Than a Minimum Wage?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Military Recruitment and the Media

## **Core Documents: The Protection of Individual Rights**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Bill of Rights, the 14th Amendment, and Article I of the Massachusetts Constitution
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Marriage Equality Court Cases</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: When Should You Go to Small Claims Court?

MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Your Privacy on Social Media

#### **10th Amendment to the Constitution**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Regulation of Sports Betting
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Pandemic Policy Information in the Media

#### **Additional Provisions of the Massachusetts Constitution**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Comparing the Federal and Massachusetts Constitutions
- 2. UNCOVER: Gender-Inclusive and Anti-Racist Language and Images in State Constitutions, Laws, and Materials
- 3. ENGAGE: How Can Teachers and Students Develop an LGBTQIA-Inclusive Curriculum in Schools?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Gendered Language in Media Coverage of Women in Politics

## Responsibilities of Federal, State and Local Government

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Functions of State and Local Government
- 2. UNCOVER: COVID-19, Vaccinations, Face Masks, and Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905)
- 3. ENGAGE: What Single-Use Plastic Items Should Local Governments Ban to Help Save the Environment?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Trusted Messengers, the Media and the Pandemic
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Environmental Campaigns Using Social Media

## **Leadership Structure of the Massachusetts Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: The Structure of Massachusetts Government
- 2. UNCOVER: Milestones in Massachusetts Politics
- 3. ENGAGE: How Can Society Eliminate Gender Gaps in Wages and Jobs?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Online Campaigning for Political Office

## **Tax-Supported Facilities and Services**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: People's Taxes and How They Are Spent
- 2. UNCOVER: A Brief History of Taxation in the U.S.
- 3. ENGAGE: Should States Expand Lotteries to Raise Money for Communities?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Advertising the Lottery Online and in Print

## **Components of Local Government**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Town Meetings as a Form of Local Government
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Democratic Decision Making in Cooperative Organizations and Worker/Employee-Owned</u>
  Companies
- 3. ENGAGE: Should Communities Declare Themselves Safe or Sanctuary Cities?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Local Governments, Social Media and Digital Democracy

# <u>TOPIC 7: Freedom of the Press and News/Media</u> <u>Literacy [Standards 8.T7.1-6]</u>

## **Freedom of the Press**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Notable Freedom of the Press Court Cases
- 2. <u>UNCOVER: Censorship and the Campaign Against Comic Books in the 1950s, Banned Books in the U.S. Today, and the Great Chinese Firewall</u>
- 3. ENGAGE: What are the Speech Rights of Student Journalists?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Press Freedom in the United States and the World

### **Competing Information in a Free Press**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: History of Newspapers, Then and Now
- 2. UNCOVER: Investigative Journalists: Nellie Bly, Ida Tarbell, Ida B. Wells, Upton Sinclair, and Rachel Carson
- 3. ENGAGE: How Can Every Citizen Become Their Own Investigative Journalist?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Objectivity and the News from All Sides
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Investigative Journalism and Social Change

### **Writing the News: Different Formats and Their Functions**

- 1. <u>INVESTIGATE</u>: <u>News Articles, Editorials, Editorial Cartoons, Op-Ed Commentaries, Photographs, Press Conference, and Sports Writing</u>
- 2. UNCOVER: Pioneering Women Cartoonists and Animators: Jackie Ormes, Dale Messick and More
- 3. ENGAGE: What is the Role of a War Correspondent?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: News Photographs & Newspaper Design
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: How Reporters' Report Events

## **<u>Digital News and Social Media</u>**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Social Media, News, and the Spread of Misinformation
- 2. UNCOVER: Russian Hackers, Facebook, the Mueller Report, and the 2016 and 2020 U.S. Presidential Elections
- 3. ENGAGE: Is the Internet a Human Right?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Recommendation Algorithms on Social Media Platforms
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Fake News Investigation and Evaluation

## **Evaluating Print and Online Media**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Defining "Fake News" and Finding Reliable Information
- 2. UNCOVER: Yellow Journalism and the Spanish-American War
- 3. ENGAGE: How Can Students Use Fact Checking to Evaluate the Credibility of News?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Critical Visual Analysis of Online and Print Media

## **Analyzing Editorials, Editorial Cartoons, or Op-Ed Commentaries**

- 1. INVESTIGATE: Evaluating Editorials, Editorial Cartoons, and Op-Ed Commentaries
- 2. UNCOVER: Deepfakes, Fake Profiles, and Political Messaging
- 3. <u>ENGAGE</u>: Should Facebook and Other Technology Companies Regulate Political Content on Their Social Media Platforms?
  - MEDIA LITERACY CONNECTIONS: Memes and TikToks as Political Cartoons



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