The Development of United States Government

This section focuses on the historical development of United States Government - an essential area of investigation and exploration in government, civics, and history classes in elementary, middle, and high schools.

The critical media literacy activities in this section connect to the seminal documents and events of the American Revolutionary Era, including the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Constitutional Convention, the debates between Federalists and Anti-Federalists, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Each of the media literacy activities connects the past to issues people face today - the meaning of independence in an era of social media; the role of government in regulating self-driving automobile technology; the persistence of racism toward Black Americans from the Constitutional Convention to today; the nature of political debates and discourse in American politics; and the current relevance of the Bill of Rights to our lives as members of a democracy.

Development of U.S. Government: Media Literacy Activities

Choice Board
Media Literacy Activities

The Development of the U.S. Government: Media Literacy Activities Choice Board

- Curate a Collection of Images of Black Lives and Culture
  Assemble a digital collection of images that combat racism and affirm Black lives and culture.

- Design a Social Media Campaign for a Declaration of Independence
  Explore the various Declarations of Independence written throughout U.S. history and then design a social media campaign for one.

- Write Your Own Hamilton-Style Lyrics
  Choose a political topic and write a song or rap that examines how different levels of government are handling your issue.

- Uncover Media Stereotypes Toward Black Americans
  Design a video, podcast, or website that connects decisions made during the Constitutional Convention to how Black Americans are portrayed in the media today.

- The Development of the U.S. Government
  Media Literacy Choice Board
  Building Democracy for All, a free ebook by Robert Maloy & Torrey Trust explores these topics and more.

- Analyze Social Media Content Creators' Videos
  Evaluate how Black content creators on TikTok, YouTube, or Snapchat portray Black American identity.

- Who Should Regulate Self-Driving Cars?
  Explore how auto manufacturers and what local, state, and national governments do to create safer driving for everyone.

- Analyze the Lyrics from Hamilton
  Listen to songs from Hamilton. Then, evaluate the songs for their accuracy, credibility, relevance, and presentation. Design a Yelp/Amazon review, podcast, video, or website to showcase your findings.

- Tweet the Bill of Rights
  Synthesize the Bill of Rights through a series of tweets, using Twitter’s 280 character limit.

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