



Middle School iCivics Scope and Sequence

With 14 games and over 250 lesson plans (and counting!), teachers often ask us how to approach iCivics resources. There's no "right" way to use iCivics resources. In this document, we've listed all our resources in one place according to the same curriculum units you'll find on our website. Within each unit, we've organized the resources in an order that seems most logical to us. That said, we understand there are many ways to sequence civics. Most of our resources stand alone and don't require teaching another lesson first, so you can feel free to mix and match to meet your needs and the timing of your curriculum. We hope this Scope & Sequence will help you plan your iCivics classroom experience!

Product Overview

iCivics has more than just games! We mix it up with a variety of product types to help you mix it up in the classroom. Here are the iCivics products you'll see in our curriculum units:



Games

Online games cover over 20 civics topics and counting, require no downloading, and are designed to be played in under 45-minutes.



Extension Packs

Wrap around curriculum, including pre- and post-game activities, enrich student learning and reinforce gameplay.



Lesson Plans

Print-and-go digital and PDF lessons are easy to implement, take between 1-2 class periods, and form the core of each unit.



Mini-Lessons

Two-page reading & activity collections can be combined into larger lessons or quickly cover content on their own.



WebQuests

Guided research activities allow students to explore internet resources in safe and informative ways.



DBQuest

Interactive document analysis modules get students up close and personal with primary source documents.



Videos

Brief and purposeful videos introduce students to the people and processes they need to know.



iCivics ELL

WIDA-correlated games and curricular resources designed specifically with English language learners in mind.

The pages that follow detail each of our units and the resources they contain. Games appear in **boldface** font, and resources that appear in more than one unit are noted with an *asterick* (*). Feel free to use these resources whenever you think they fit best! You'll find most of our digital resources (games, WebQuests, Drafting Board, and DBQuest), Extension Packs, and mini-lessons in both middle and high school units.



Unit: Foundations of Government

Students examine the purpose, forms, and limitations on government. They learn about key philosophers like John Locke and explore practical examples of government functions. Students come away understanding different forms of government, key influences on American democratic principles, and distinguishing features of governments around the world.



Unit: Influence Library

This library of mini-lessons targets the people, ideas, and events that influenced the development of America's government. Each mini-lesson includes a one-page reading and a one-page activity, and is appropriate for a variety of uses. Unlike the iCivics lesson plans, these mini-lessons are designed for students to complete independently without the need for teacher direction. However, they also make great teacher-directed lessons or even class conversation-starters, and multiple mini-lessons can be combined to make a longer lesson.



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Why Government?	Lesson Plan
The Sovereign State	Lesson Plan
Who Rules?	Lesson Plan
A Dive Into Democracy	Lesson Plan
Limiting Government	Lesson Plan
Rule of Law	Lesson Plan

Resources are hyperlinked!



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Cradle of Democracy	Mini-Lesson
Niccolo Machiavelli	Mini-Lesson
The Enlightenment	Mini-Lesson
Thomas Hobbes	Mini-Lesson
John Locke	Mini-Lesson
Baron de Montesquieu	Mini-Lesson
Jean-Jaques Rousseau	Mini-Lesson
William Blackstone	Mini-Lesson
Founding Mothers	Mini-Lesson
Benjamin Franklin	Mini-Lesson
George Mason	Mini-Lesson
George Washington	Mini-Lesson
Thomas Jefferson	Mini-Lesson
James Madison	Mini-Lesson
Federalist & Anti-Federalists	Mini-Lesson
The Constitutional Convention	Mini-Lesson
Early Rebellions	Mini-Lesson

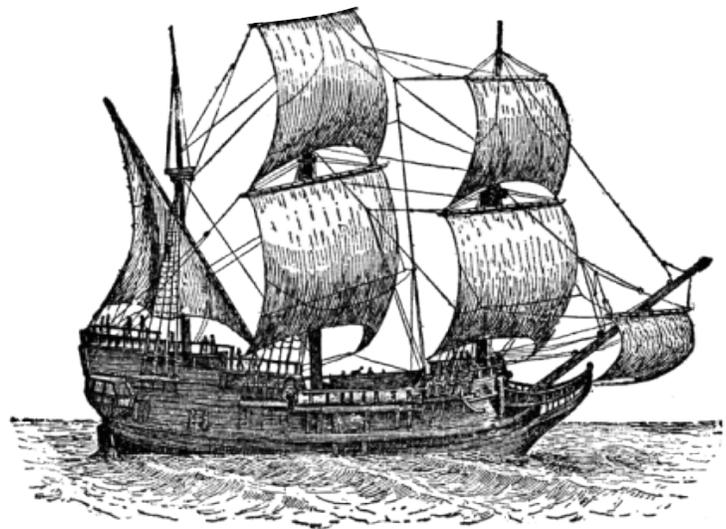


Unit: Road to the Constitution

How did we go from a bunch of British colonies to the United States of America? Explore the major gripes of life under British rule, how the colonists decided to break away, and how they set the path for a new government.



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Columbus to the Colonies	Lesson Plan
Colonial Influences	Lesson Plan
Hey King: Get Off Our Backs	Lesson Plan
Wanted: A Just Right Government	Lesson Plan
We're Free... Let's Grow!*	Lesson Plan
America's Founding Preambles*	DBQuest
The Constitution's Cover Letter*	DBQuest
Race to Ratify	Game
Race to Ratify Extension Pack	Extension Pack



* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: The Constitution

Students learn how our Constitution was created and what some of its key characteristics are. They also explore key amendments to the Constitution and their application in protecting citizens' rights.



Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
America's Founding Preambles*	DBQuest
The Constitution's Cover Letter*	DBQuest
Anatomy of the Constitution	Lesson Plan
You've Got Rights!	Lesson Plan
Do I Have a Right?*	Game (ELL)
Do I Have a Right? Extension Pack*	Extension Pack/ELL
Amendment Mini-Lesson	Lesson Plan
Sortify: U.S. Citizenship*	Game
The Constitution: Rules for Running a Country	WebQuest
Three Branches: Laws in Action	WebQuest
Separation of Powers: What's For Lunch?	Lesson Plan
The "Federal" in Federalism	Lesson Plan
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)*	Lesson Plan
Branches of Power*	Game (ELL)
Constitution Day Lesson Plan	Lesson Plan
Speech and the First Amendment*	Mini-Lesson
Religion and the First Amendment*	Mini-Lesson
Equal Protection Clause*	Mini-Lesson
Citizenship Clause*	Mini-Lesson

Resources are hyperlinked!



* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: A Growing Nation

In this unit, students learn how the United States began to grow as soon as it became a nation, and they examine the effect of this growth on societies already established in North America.



Unit: Pushing toward Civil Rights

The push towards civil rights in the United States has been longstanding and is ever-evolving. While not encompassing, our civil rights unit covers the expansion and abolition of slavery, women’s suffrage, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and the expansion of rights through court cases and laws. For more coverage, checkout additional cases in our [Landmark Library](#).



Resources are hyperlinked!

<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Separate and Sovereign*	Mini-Lesson
We’re Free... Let’s Grow!*	Lesson Plan
Louisiana Purchase (1803)	Lesson Plan
The Louisiana Purchase: Branching Out	DBQuest
Manifest Destiny	Lesson Plan
Cherokee Resistance	DBQuest
Oregon Treaty (1845)	Lesson Plan
Annexation of Texas (1846)	Lesson Plan
Mexican Cession (1848)	Lesson Plan

<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Slavery: No Freedom, No Rights	Lesson Plan
Slave States, Free States	Lesson Plan
Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)*	Mini-Lesson
Civil War and Reconstruction	Lesson Plan
Historical Monuments & Meaning	DBQuest
Jim Crow	Lesson Plan
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*	Mini-Lesson
The Road to Civil Rights	Lesson Plan
Changemakers: The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (1940)	Video
Changemakers: The Shelleys and the Right to Fair Housing (1948)	Video
Changemakers: Students and the Struggle for School Integration (1951)	Video
Changemakers: Stepping Forward: The Fight for College Integration (1952)	Video
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*	Mini-Lesson
Little Rock: Executive Order 10730*	DBQuest

* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: Civil Rights Cont.

The push towards civil rights in the United States has been longstanding and is ever-evolving. While not encompassing, our civil rights unit covers the expansion and abolition of slavery, women’s suffrage, the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s, and the expansion of rights through court cases and laws. For more coverage, checkout additional cases in our [Landmark Library](#).



Resources are hyperlinked!

Unit: The Legislative Branch

Discover the structure, function, and powers of the legislative branch of government. Students explore the legislative process as well as the influence of citizens and political parties.



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Changemakers: Breaking Barriers: Constance Baker Motley	Video
The Nashville Sit-ins (1960)	DBQuest
Civil Rights Act of 1964*	Lesson Plan
Civic Action and Change	Lesson Plan
Voting Rights Act of 1965*	Mini-Lesson
Ethel Payne: First Lady of the Black Press	Video
Loving v. Virginia (1967)*	Mini-Lesson
Voting Rights*	Lesson Plan
Woman Suffrage and World War I	WebQuest
A Movement in the Right Direction	Infographic
Movement & Action: The Women’s Suffrage Movement	WebQuest
Patsy Mink: Changing the Rules*	Video
Changemakers: The Shelleys and the Right to Fair Housing (1948)	Video

<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Congress in a FLASH!	Lesson Plan
Making Laws	WebQuest
Can You BILL-ieve It?	Lesson Plan
Why Do We Have a House and Senate?	Lesson Plan
Voting in Congress	Lesson Plan
Who Represents Me?*	WebQuest
Patsy Mink: Changing the Rules*	Video
LawCraft	Game (ELL)
LawCraft Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
Legislating for Holiday	WebQuest

* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: The Executive Branch

Students learn about the executive branch, including the unique role and powers of the president and the function of executive departments and agencies.



Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
Nation Builder in Chief	Lesson Plan
Six Roles of the President	Infographic
For the President, All In A Day's Work	Lesson Plan
Being President	WebQuest
Little Rock: Executive Order 10730*	DBQuest
Shedding a Light on a State of Emergency*	Infographic
The Presidential Agenda	Mini-Lesson
The First 100 Days	Mini-Lesson
Supreme Court Nominations*	Lesson Plan
Vice President	Mini-Lesson
A Very Big Branch	Lesson Plan
Executive Roles: Money Doesn't Grow on Trees?	Lesson Plan
Foreign Policy	Lesson Plan
Convene the Council*	Game (ELL)
Convene the Council Extension Pack*	Extension Pack (ELL)
Executive Command	Game
Executive Command Extension Pack	Extension Pack
Impeachment & Conviction	Infographic
Peaceful Transfer of Power	Infographic



Resources are hyperlinked!



* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: The Judicial Branch

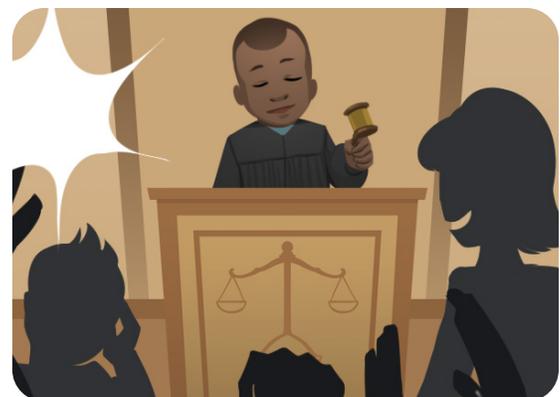
What do the courts do? Students explore the state and federal courts' role in fairly settling disputes and administering justice as well as the unique role of the U.S. Supreme Court in interpreting the U.S. Constitution.



Resources are hyperlinked!

* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
Judicial Branch in a FLASH	Lesson Plan
The Courts in a Nutshell	WebQuest
Sources of Law	Lesson Plan
Trial Court "Go Fish"	Lesson Plan
Bond in a Honda: Trial Simulation	Lesson Plan
Court Quest	Game (ELL)
Court Quest Extension Pack	Extension Pack/ ELL
Appellate Courts: Let's Take It Up!	Lesson Plan
Trial and Appeal	Infographic
Argument Wars	Game (ELL)
Argument Wars Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
In the Courts	WebQuest
The "Supreme" in Supreme Decision	Lesson Plan
Stipulating Speech	Lesson Plan
Supreme Interpreters	WebQuest
Supreme Court Nominations*	Lesson Plan
Marbury v. Madison (1803)*	Mini-Lesson
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)*	Lesson Plan
Interpreting the Constitution	Lesson Plan
Judges: Playing Fair	Lesson Plan
Let's Talk About Independence	WebQuest



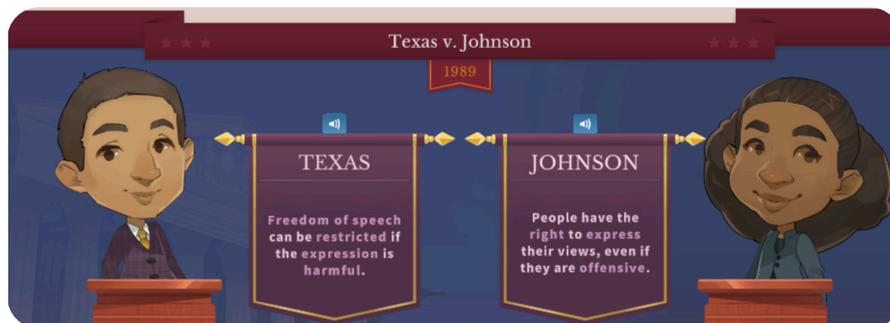


Unit: Landmark Library

This library of mini-lessons targets a variety of landmark cases from the United States Supreme Court. Each mini-lesson includes a one-page reading and a one-page activity, and is appropriate for a variety of uses. Unlike the iCivics lesson plans, these mini-lessons are designed for students to complete independently without the need for teacher direction. However, they also make great teacher-directed lessons or even class conversation-starters.



Resources	Product Type
Meet the Supremes Teacher's Guide	Teacher's Guide
The Research Roadmap	Lesson Plan
Marbury v. Madison (1803)*	Mini-Lesson
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)*	Lesson Plan
Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)	Mini-Lesson
Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)*	Mini-Lesson
Elk v. Wilkins (1884)*	Mini-Lesson
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)*	Mini-Lesson
United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)*	Mini-Lesson
Minersville v. Gobitas (1940)	Mini-Lesson
West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette (1943)	Mini-Lesson
Korematsu v. United States (1944)	Mini-Lesson
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)*	Mini-Lesson
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	Mini-Lesson
Miranda v. Arizona (1966)	Mini-Lesson
In re Gault (1967)	Mini-Lesson
Loving v. Virginia (1967)*	Mini-Lesson
Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)	Mini-Lesson
U.S. v. Nixon (1974)	Mini-Lesson
Lau v. Nichols (1974)	Mini-Lesson



Resources are hyperlinked!



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Unit: Landmark Library Cont.

This library of mini-lessons targets a variety of landmark cases from the United States Supreme Court. Each mini-lesson includes a one-page reading and a one-page activity, and is appropriate for a variety of uses. Unlike the iCivics lesson plans, these mini-lessons are designed for students to complete independently without the need for teacher direction. However, they also make great teacher-directed lessons or even class conversation-starters.



Unit: Legal Reference Library

Sometimes the textbook definition isn't enough! Our collection of Legal Reference Sheets provides students with a deep understanding of important laws, rights, and legal concepts in a flash. Part-infographic, part-written text, these mini-lessons consist of a one-page reading and a page of activities to reinforce the concepts learned. The lessons can be used individually, or as a compliment to another lesson or case from the [Landmark Library](#).

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Bethel School District v. Fraser (1986)	Mini-Lesson
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988)	Mini-Lesson
Lyng v. Northwest Indian Cemetery Protective Association (1988)	Mini-Lesson
Texas v. Johnson (1989)	Mini-Lesson
United States v. Virginia (1996)	Mini-Lesson
PGA Tour, Inc. v. Martin (2001)	Mini-Lesson
Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)	Mini-Lesson
Clapper v. Amnesty International (2013)	Mini-Lesson
EEOC v. Abercrombie & Fitch (2015)	Mini-Lesson
Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)	Mini-Lesson

<i>Resources</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Separate and Sovereign*	Mini-Lesson
Religion and the First Amendment*	Mini-Lesson
Speech and the First Amendment*	Mini-Lesson
Citizenship Clause*	Mini-Lesson
Equal Protection Clause*	Mini-Lesson
Civil Rights Act of 1964*	Mini-Lesson
Voting Rights Act of 1965*	Mini-Lesson
USA PATRIOT Act of 2001	Mini-Lesson

* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.

Resources are
hyperlinked!





Unit: State and Local Governments

How do state and local governments work, and what is their relationship to citizens and the federal government? In this unit, students learn about the powers states have as well as the role of states and smaller units as the governments closest to citizens. They find out how state constitutions are similar and different from the U.S. Constitution, why county governments are important, and what their Congressional representatives do for local citizens.



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
State Power: Got a Reservation?	Lesson Plan
The Great State	Lesson Plan
The State Governor	Lesson Plan
Shedding a Light on a State of Emergency*	Infographic
States Rule!	WebQuest
Comparative Constitutions	Lesson Plan
The Spectrum of State Election Laws*	Infographic
The Capable County	Lesson Plan
County Basics	WebQuest
Counties Work	Game (ELL)
Counties Work Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
County Contributions	Infographic
Who Represents Me?*	WebQuest
Cast Your Vote*	Game (ELL)
Cast Your Vote Extension Pack*	Extension Pack (ELL)



Resources are hyperlinked!



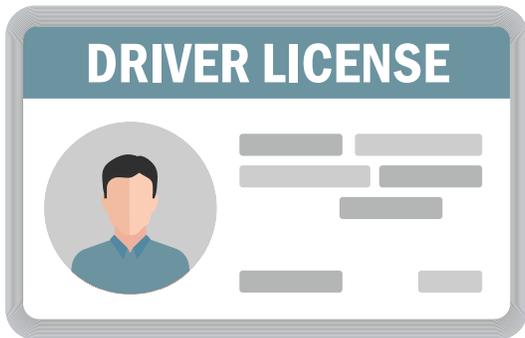
* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: Politics and Public Policy

This unit introduces students to the American political system. Students learn how our elections work, what role political parties play in our system, and how citizens hold a wide range of political views. Using simulations, presentations, vocabulary-building activities, and a mock election, this unit gives students the tools they need to make informed choices and encourages them toward civic involvement.

We also provide an [Election Glossary](#) on the unit page.



Resources are hyperlinked!

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
One Big Party	Lesson Plan
Party Systems	Mini-Lesson
Electoral Process	Lesson Plan
Running for President	Infographic
Win the White House	Game (ELL)
Win the White House Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
Campaign Cash	Infographic
The Poll Picture	Infographic
Mock Election	Simulation
Got Ballot?	Lesson Plan
Cast Your Vote*	Game (ELL)
Cast Your Vote Extension Pack*	Extension Pack (ELL)
Candidate Evaluation	Lesson Plan
Voting Matters Activity	Mini-Lesson
The Spectrum of State Election Laws*	Infographic
Rank Your Choice	Infographic
Voting by Mail	WebQuest
Voting Rights*	Lesson Plan
Midterm Elections	Mini-Lesson
Midterm Math	Infographic
Reapportionment & Redistricting	WebQuest
Gerrymandering	Mini-Lesson
Gerrymandering: Where Do We Draw the Line?	Infographic

* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: Citizenship and Participation

What does it mean to be a U.S. citizen? How do you become a citizen? Students compare and contrast personal and political rights with social responsibilities and personal duties. Students will explore global citizenship and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in other countries. They will also learn about community engagement by selecting a problem of their own and creating a plan to solve it.



Resources are hyperlinked!

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<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Plug Into Power with the U.S. Census	Infographic
Get Counted! (The U.S. Census)	Lesson Plan
Citizen Me	Lesson Plan
Citizenship Clause*	Mini-Lesson
Citizenship: Just the Facts	Lesson Plan
Elk v. Wilkins (1884)*	Mini-Lesson
United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)*	Mini-Lesson
Sortify: U.S. Citizenship	Game
Immigration Nation	Game (ELL)
Immigration Nation Extension Pack	Extension Pack (ELL)
Immigration & Citizenship	WebQuest
Immigration: Pathway to Citizenship	Lesson Plan
The Fourth Branch: You!	Lesson Plan
Students Engage	Lesson Plan
Civic Heroism	WebQuest
This Land is Your Land	Lesson Plan
The Global You	Lesson Plan
A Trip Around the World	Lesson Plan





Unit: County Solution Civic Action Plan

County Solutions is our solution to encouraging civic engagement without leaving the classroom. This simple, nine-lesson unit walks your class through the process of creating an action plan to resolve a community issue. Students learn about current events, the role of local government, and the variety of outreach methods available to average citizens working to influence public policy.

We suggest using resources from our State and Local Government unit and our Citizenship & Participation unit before teaching County Solutions in order to lay a foundation of knowledge.



Unit: Media and Influence

Students learn how the media and interest groups influence discussions that take place in the “public sphere” and ultimately influence the government. They also identify and apply the seven types of propaganda to see how messages are designed to influence us individually. The unit challenges students to take a critical look at these sources of constructed messages.



Resources are hyperlinked!



* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
County Solutions Overview	Teacher’s Guide
Step 1: We’ve Got Issues	Lesson Plan
Step 2: The News and You	Lesson Plan
Step 3: Who You Gonna Call?	Lesson Plan
Step 4: Working with Websites	Lesson Plan
Step 5: All About Public Policy	Lesson Plan
Step 6: Real World Policies	Lesson Plan
Step 7: Brainstorm-a-Brewin’	Lesson Plan
Step 8: Positions, Please!	Lesson Plan
Step 9: Action Campaign	Lesson Plan

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
The Public Sphere	Lesson Plan
The Role of Media	Lesson Plan
Ethel Payne: First Lady of the Black Press*	Video
Interest Groups	Lesson Plan
Rachel Carson’s Fight for the Environment*	Video
Propaganda: What’s the Message?	Lesson Plan
NewsFeed Defenders	Game
NewsFeed Defenders Extension Pack	Extension Pack



Unit: Government and the Market

In this unit, students learn about the relationship between the government and the economy. Starting with the basics of an economy, students learn about government regulations on our market economy, where the government gets its money and what the government spends it on, and how banks and lending influence our economic system.

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
Government and the Economy	Lesson Plan
The Market Economy	Lesson Plan
Taxation	Lesson Plan
Government Spending	Lesson Plan
Banks, Credit, and the Economy	Lesson Plan

Unit: International Affairs

Students learn about the complex interactions that exist in our globalized world. They examine the evolution of diplomacy and international interdependence by looking at recent and historical global events.

Please note that this is one of our older units and has not been recently updated.

Resources (Suggested Sequence)	Product Type
Diplomacy	Lesson Plan
Conflict and Cooperation	Lesson Plan
International Influence	Lesson Plan
International Organizations	Lesson Plan
Convene the Council*	Game (ELL)
Convene the Council Extension Pack*	Extension Pack (ELL)
Global Toolbox	Infographic



* This resource appears in more than one unit. Use it wherever you think it fits best.



Unit: Persuasive Writing

In this language arts unit, students learn how to “argue on paper” using a fictional case about a school dress code rule against band t-shirts. The lessons take them through the process of writing two persuasive essays: one supporting the rule and one opposing it. After the essays, we suggest having your class play the game Supreme Decision to see how these arguments relate to issues of freedom of speech in schools.



<i>Resources (Suggested Sequence)</i>	<i>Product Type</i>
Lesson 1: So You Think You Can Argue	Lesson Plan
Lesson 2: I Can't Wear What??	Lesson Plan
Lesson 3: Lookin' For Evidence	Lesson Plan
Lesson 4: No Rambling Allowed	Lesson Plan
Lesson 5: Yeah, But...	Lesson Plan
Lesson 6: The Dreaded Outline	Lesson Plan
Lesson 7: Emphasize, Minimize	Lesson Plan
Lesson 8: From Outline To Essay	Lesson Plan

Resources are hyperlinked!



Curriculum Updates!

We regularly add new resources to our curriculum. But we're a small—and busy team—and we don't always update this Scope & Sequence document the moment a new resource is born. (Our apologies!) Be sure to check [icivics.org](https://www.icivics.org) to see if anything new and exciting has been added to the curriculum unit you're teaching! And if you're using a downloaded copy of this document, check our [Teach Page](#) to make sure you've got the latest version.

