

New Jersey Department of Education
2006 Social Studies Standards Implementation Guide (SIG)

6.2 CIVICS: ALL STUDENTS WILL KNOW, UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AND THE RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND ROLES OF A CITIZEN IN THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

Grade 8

6.2.8.B. American Values and Principles

1. Analyze how certain values including individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality and free inquiry are fundamental to American public life.
2. Describe representative government and explain how it works to protect the majority and the minority.

Author Information:

Author: William Gorman
District: Freehold Regional High School



Framework97 References

Identify and Interpret the Balance Between Rights and Responsibilities of Citizens, pp. 49-51
Examine the Origins and Continuing Application of Key Constitutional Principles, pp. 46-48

National History Standard

National Standards for Civics and Government

- III. How Does the Government Embody the Purposes and Values of American Democracy?
- V. What Are the Roles of the Citizen in American Democracy?

Content Overview

This section examines the concept of representative government and its role in protecting the majority and minority; also the struggle for equality of all groups which has continued throughout our history. Individual rights are also addressed. Other important topics focus on the values of the common good, self-government, and free inquiry.

Essential Questions

What is free inquiry, and why is it important to American society?
What is representative government, and how does it differ from the concept of pure democracy?
How does representative government work to protect the rights of both the majority and the minority?

What are some examples of how representative government protects individual rights?
How is equality guaranteed in a representative system?
What is the “will” of the common good?
What are some ways in which the concept of justice is demonstrated in American democracy?

Teaching Resources

See website of the New Jersey Legislature, www.njleg.state.nj.us/kids/representative.asp, for a description of representative government with links to various agencies of state government. See the classic work, Considerations of Representative Government by John Stuart Mill. The text is available on many websites and in the library.

Assessment

Given a list of rights listed in the Bill of Rights, Amendments I-X, develop a graphic organizer linking the rights and the associated responsibilities. For Amendment I of the Bill of Rights, find an article and take a position on the amendment. Attach the article to the written position paper.