



21st Century Essential Concepts and Skills: Connections to CHARACTER COUNTS!

CIVIC LITERACY

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Civic Literacy

Below are listed the Six Pillars of Character and the Essential Concepts and Skills (with details and examples) of Civic Literacy, Grades K-12, that connect directly to the tenets of each Pillar of Character. This list may not be all-inclusive and many concepts and skills are listed under multiple Pillars.

Note: Essential concepts and skills of Civic Literacy could all be included as part of our duty to demonstrate good citizenship

Trustworthiness: Grades 9-12

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand ways citizens participate in the political process at local, state, and national levels.

Trustworthiness: Grades 6-8

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand values such as individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality, diversity, openness and free inquiry, truth, patriotism are fundamental to American public life.

Trustworthiness: Grades 3-5

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand why civic responsibility is important and know examples of civic responsibility.

Trustworthiness Grades K-2

Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.

- Understand the characteristics of a good leader.

Respect: Grades 9-12

Understand strategies for effective political action that impact local, state, and national governance.

- Understand the role of diversity in American life and the importance of shared values, political beliefs, and civic beliefs in an increasingly diverse American society.

Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

- Understand ideologies, structures, institutions, processes and political cultures of different political systems in the world.

Respect: Grades 6-8

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand rights, roles and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand values such as individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality, diversity, openness and free inquiry, truth, patriotism are fundamental to American public life.

Understand how laws are established at the local, state and national levels.

- Understand the sources, purposes, and functions of law, and the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good.

Respect: Grades 3-5

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as in American songs, stories, and speeches.



Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

- Understand factors that contribute to cooperation and cause disputes within and among groups and nations.

Respect: Grades K-2

Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.

Responsibility: Grades 9-12

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand that constitutional democracy requires the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and competent citizenry.
- Understand ways citizens participate in the political process at local, state, and national levels.
- Understand the importance of becoming knowledgeable about public affairs.

Understand the differences among the complex levels of local, state and national government and their inherent, expressed, and implied powers.

- Understand provisions of the Constitution and principles of the constitutional system help to insure a government that will not exceed its limits.
- Understand the policies of state and local governments provide citizens with ways to monitor and influence the actions of members of government and hold them responsible for their actions.

Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

- Understand ideologies, structures, institutions, processes and political cultures of different political systems in the world.

Responsibility: Grades 6-8

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand rights, roles and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism

- Understand the type of citizenry needed to establish and maintain constitutional government.

Understand strategies for effective political action that impacts local, state and national governance. (6-8)

- Understand the concept of civic responsibility.
- Understand the importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry in American democracy.
- Understand the concept of political leadership in the student's own school, community, state, and the nation.

Responsibility: Grades 3-5

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand why civic responsibility is important and know examples of civic responsibility.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as in American songs, stories, and speeches.

Responsibility: Grades K-2

Understand the basic concepts of government and democracy and that the U.S. Constitution defines the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

- Understand rights and responsibilities.
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Fairness: Grades 9-12

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand personal, political, and economic rights are secured by constitutional government, the rule of law, checks and balances, an independent judiciary, and a vigilant citizenry.



Fairness: Grades 6-8

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand rights, roles and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
- Understand issues regarding personal, political, and economic rights.
- Understand what is meant by the “scope and limits” of a right.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand values such as individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality, diversity, openness and free inquiry, truth, patriotism are fundamental to American public life.

Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.

- Understand the primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers (legislative, executive, judicial) and ways in which each branch shares the powers and functions of the other branches.
- Understand how the legislative, executive, and judicial branches use checks and balances.

Fairness: Grades 3-5

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand that Congress passes laws to protect individual rights.

Fairness: Grades K-2

Understand the basic concepts of government and democracy and that the U.S. Constitution defines the rights and responsibilities of citizens.

- Understand the purpose of rules.
- Understand the concept of fairness.

Caring: Grades 9-12

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.

Understand strategies for effective political action that impact local, state, and national governance.

- Understand participation in civic and political life can help citizens attain individual and public goals.

Caring: Grades 6-8

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.

Caring: Grades 3-5

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.

Caring: Grades K-2

Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.

- Understand the characteristics of a good leader.
- Understand respect for other’s point of view.

Citizenship: Grades 9-12

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand rights, roles, and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
- Understand that constitutional democracy requires the participation of an attentive, knowledgeable, and competent citizenry.
- Understand ways citizens participate in the political process at local, state, and national levels.
- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand the central ideas of American constitutional government and how this form of government has shaped the character of American society.

Understand strategies for effective political action that impact local, state, and national governance.

- Understand participation in civic and political life can help citizens attain individual and public goals.



Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

- Understand conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.
- Understand the significance of foreign policies and events in the United States' relations with the world.
- Understand the idea of national interest and how it is used as a criterion for shaping American foreign policy.
- Understand the effects that significant world political developments have on the United States.
- Understands the influence that American ideas about rights have had abroad and how other peoples' ideas about rights have influenced Americans.

Citizenship: Grades 6-8

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand rights, roles and status of the individual in relation to the general welfare.
- Understand participation in civic and political life can help bring about the attainment of individual and public goals.
- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.

Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand values such as individual rights, the common good, self-government, justice, equality, diversity, openness and free inquiry, truth, patriotism are fundamental to American public life.
- Understand the type of citizenry needed to establish and maintain constitutional government

Understand how various political systems throughout the world define the rights and responsibilities of the individual.

- Understand constitutions protect individual rights and promote the common good.
- Understand the essential characteristics of limited and unlimited governments.

Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.

- Understand the primary responsibilities of each branch of government in a system of shared powers (legislative, executive, judicial) and ways in which each branch shares the powers and functions of the other branches.
- Understand how the legislative, executive, and judicial branches use checks and balances.

Understand the similarities and differences among the complex levels of local, state and national government.

- Understand the relationship between state and local governments and the national government.
- Understand the powers and responsibilities of local, state and national governments.

Understand strategies for effective political action that impacts local, state and national governance.

- Understand the concept of civic responsibility.
- Understand the importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry in American democracy.
- Understand the concept of political leadership in the student's own school, community, state, and the nation.

Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

- Understand conditions, actions and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations.
- Understand current foreign policy issues and the means the United States is using to deal with them.

Citizenship: Grades 3-5

Understand the rights and responsibilities of each citizen and demonstrate the value of lifelong civic action.

- Understand what it means to be a citizen.
- Understand why civic responsibility is important and know examples of civic responsibility.
- Understand how people can participate in their government.
- Understand opportunities for leadership and public service in the student's own classroom, school, community, state, and the nation.
- Understand the importance of voluntarism as a characteristic of American society.



Understand how the government established by the Constitution embodies the principles of democracy and republicanism.

- Understand fundamental values and principles of American democracy are expressed in documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Preamble to the United States Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, as well as in American songs, stories, and speeches.

Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the U.S. Constitution.

- Understand that the legislative branch passes laws to protect individual rights.
- Understand that the executive branch carries out and enforces laws to protect individual rights.
- Understand that the judicial branch, headed by the Supreme Court, makes decisions concerning the law that aim to protect individual rights.

Understand the differences among local, state and national government.

- Understand the roles of local, state and national government and the roles of representative leaders at these levels such as mayor, governor and President.
- Understand major services provided by national, state, and local governments.
- Understand how national, state and local government officials are chosen.

Understand the role of the United States in current world affairs.

- Understand that the world is divided into many different nations with each one having its own government.
- Understand the major ways nations interact with each other such as trade, diplomacy, cultural contacts, treaties or agreements, and use of military force.
- Understand factors that contribute to cooperation and cause disputes within and among groups and nations.

Citizenship: Grades K-2

Understand how government affects citizens and how citizens affect government.

- Understand the purpose of government.
- Understand the characteristics of a good leader.
- Understand respect for other's point of view
- Understand the concepts of power and authority.

Understand the United States has a role in current world affairs.

- Understand the world is divided into nations.
- Understand how the nations of the world interact with one another

Understand the purpose and function of each of the three branches of government established by the Constitution.

- Understand the purpose of government and how its powers are acquired, used and justified.
- Understand the necessity of politics and government.
- Understand the purposes, organization, and functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and the independent regulatory agencies.

Understand the differences among the complex levels of local, state and national government and their inherent, expressed, and implied powers.

- Understand the policies of state and local governments provide citizens with ways to monitor and influence the actions of members of government and hold them responsible for their actions.

Understand how law and public policy are established at the local, state, and national levels of government.

Understand the purposes and functions of law.

- Understand the processes by which public policy concerning a local, state, or national issue is formed and carried out.
- Understand issues concerning the relationship between state and local governments and the national government.





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