

# DeRuyter Central School District

## Participation in Government

Grade 12

### 11 Benchmarks

#### ➤ **Social Studies Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and Government**

Students will use a variety of intellectual skills to demonstrate their understanding of the necessity for establishing governments; the governmental system of the United States and other nations; the United States Constitution; the basic civic values of American constitutional democracy; and the roles, rights, and responsibilities of citizenship, including avenues of participation.

#### PG12.5.6 Government and the State

- Define government and the basic powers every government holds.
- Describe the defining characteristics of the state.
- Understand the major purposes of government (e.g., protecting public safety, providing order, regulating economy, advancing public welfare)

#### PG12.5.7 Forms of Government

- Define and distinguish between authoritarian and democratic governments.
- Understand the major principles of political systems (e.g., republicanism, rule of law, limited government), constitutions and other laws.

#### PG12.5.8 Basic Concepts of Democracy

- Understand the distinguishing characteristics of democracy in the United States
- Distinguish the key assumptions of American political culture from other political cultures

#### PG12.5.9 Office of Citizen

- Describe what is meant by the “Office of Citizen” when applied to a democratic society and the dual status of citizen.
- Describe the obligations of citizenship in a constitutional democracy and the ways that citizens exercise those rights and fulfill their responsibilities (i.e. voting, holding public office, serving on a jury)
- Differentiate between “private self-interest” and the “public good” when making informed decisions.
- Understand the concept of civic virtue and the benefit of acting for the common good

PG12.5.10 Political Parties and Voter Behavior

- Analyze how individual political behaviors develop and influence participation in the political process.
- Define the origins, development and major functions of the two-party systems in the United States.
- Understands how the election process functions in the United States

PG12.5.11 Mass Media and Public Opinion

- Understand and describe the influence of political ideologies and political socialization in the American political system.
- Understand the formation of public opinion, how it is measured and its influence on government policy in the United States.
- Understand the influence of mass media on the formation of public opinion and politics in the United States.
- Describe the role of interest groups in influencing public policy and compare with the role of political parties in the American political system.

PG12.5.12 Participating in Governing and Making a Difference

- Understand how the American tradition of public association (joining organizations) has had an impact on the development of democracy in the United States.
- Identify the reasons for citizen apathy and “non-voting” in the United States. Describe and understand how our images of public life shape our civic values.
- Understands the responsibility of citizen participation in effectively maintaining and preserving democracy and the importance of volunteerism.
- Students will investigate, propose, plan and implement a project that will provide a service to the local community/school community reflecting an understanding of the basic civic values learned in the course.

PG12.5.13 Congress and the Executive Branch

- Describe and understand the function of the federal bureaucracy and its relationship to the Executive Branch of Government in the United States.
- Understand the process by which government at all levels develop “public policy” to deal with issues in American Society such as health care and education
- Understands the competing arguments concerning the role of government in major areas of domestic and foreign policy.  
*Supreme Court and Federal Court System*
- Explain the structure, organization, and jurisdiction of the federal court system

PG12.5.14 The Constitution and the Bill of Rights

- Develop a working knowledge of the Supreme Court as interpreter of the Constitution and Bill of Rights

- Apply Constitutional principles and ideals to the individual freedoms of citizens in our democratic society
- Apply Constitutional principles to current issues of legal and moral concern in American domestic and foreign policy.

#### PG12.5.15 State and Local Government

- Describe and understand the structure and function of state and local Governments
- Understand the relationship between the federal government and the states

#### PG12.5.16 Comparative Political Systems

- Compare and contrast democracy in U.S. with other democratic nations such as Great Britain and Japan.

#### PG12.5.17 Emerging Democracy

- Apply the characteristics of democracy learned in Unit One to developing nations and other nations around the world as they transition toward democracy.
- Understand the impact of other political systems (socialism, communism, authoritarianism, etc.) on the growth of democracy in countries like Iraq, Russia, Venezuela, Uganda and Thailand.
- Understand and explain how the factors of geography, economy and national history impact the development of democracy in any nation.
- Understand and explain the complexity of the process of democratization and the role of United States foreign policy in assisting these nations