

**WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

PLANNED INSTRUCTION

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**Course Title:** Civics  
**Course Number:** 00104  
**Course Prerequisites:** NA

**Course Description:** This class is designed to introduce the eighth-grade students to the political processes of the United States. Civics will provide the students with the evolution of those processes and the basic organization of our government. The students will understand the roles of local, state, and federal government in citizens’ lives. A deeper knowledge of the Constitution as the foundation of the United States government and the Bill of Rights as our basic freedoms will be explored. There will also be exploration of topics such as the importance of laws, civil rights and our court system. This course introduces our students to the importance of being engaged in good citizenship through service projects and the political process. The course will end with an introduction to our economic system. District marking period assessments are required. Full Year

**Suggested Grade Level:** Grade 8

**Length of Course:** Two Semesters

**Units of Credit:** None

**PDE Certification and Staffing Policies and Guidelines (CSPG) Required Teacher Certifications:**

CSPG 59 Social Studies

CSPG 52 Middle Level Social Studies

CSPG 35 Citizenship Education

To find the CSPG information, go to [CSPG](#)

**Certification verified by the WCSD Human Resources Department:** Yes No

**WCSD STUDENT DATA SYSTEM INFORMATION**

**Course Level:** Academic

**Mark Types:** Check all that apply.

F – Final Average MP – Marking Period EXM – Final Exam

**GPA Type:**  GPAEL-GPA Elementary  GPAML-GPA for Middle Level  NHS-National Honor Society  
 UGPA-Non-Weighted Grade Point Average  GPA-Weighted Grade Point Average

**State Course Code:** 04161

To find the State Course Code, go to [State Course Code](#), download the Excel file for SCED, click on SCED 6.0 tab, and chose the correct code that corresponds with the course.

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**TEXTBOOKS AND SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

**Board Approved Textbooks, Software, and Materials:**

**Title:** Civics  
**Publisher:** Houghton Mifflin Harcourt  
**ISBN #:** 978-0-54-491713-2  
**Copyright Date:** 2018  
**WCSD Board Approval Date:** 04/12/2021

**Supplemental Materials:** The DBQ Project; iCivics; IXL; Brainfuse

**Curriculum Document**

**WCSD Board Approval:**

**Date Finalized:** 5/22/2023  
**Date Approved:** 6/12/2023  
**Implementation Year:** 2023/2024

**SPECIAL EDUCATION, 504, and GIFTED REQUIREMENTS**

The teacher shall make appropriate modifications to instruction and assessment based on a student's Individual Education Plan (IEP), Chapter 15 Section 504 Plan (504), and/or Gifted Individual Education Plan (GIEP).

**SCOPE AND SEQUENCE OF CONTENT AND CONCEPTS**

**Marking Period 1**

Foundations of Democracy

- Citizenship
- Types of Government
- The Need for Government
- Influences on Our Government
- Creating the Constitution
- Democratic Freedoms

**Marking Period 2**

Foundation and Functions of Our Government

- The Three Branches
  - Legislative
  - Executive
  - Judicial

**Marking Period 3**

Functions of Federalism

- Foreign Relations
- State Government
- Local Government
- Financing Government

**Marking Period 4**

Citizens in the Political World

- Political Parties
- Voting and Election
- Public Opinion
- Media Influence
- Citizens Role in Society

US Economy and the World

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**Standards/Eligible Content and Skills**

<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
Describe what it means to be an American citizen	5.1.8.A,C 5.2.8.A	MP1
Examine who can be an American citizen	5.1.8.C,D,E 5.2.8.A 8.1.8.A,B	MP1
Determine and evaluate the diversity of the American population	5.1.8.C 6.2.8.A 6.5.8.A 7.1.8.A 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.A	MP1
Describe how diversity has affected American society	5.1.8.A,C,D,F 5.2.8.B 5.3.8.G,H 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.C,D	MP1
Interpret the duties and responsibilities of citizens	5.1.8.D,E 5.2.8.A-D	MP1
Identify and explain the various types of government	5.1.8.B 5.3.8.J 7.3.8.A 8.4.8.A-D	MP1
Identify what distinguishes a democracy from other forms of government	5.1.8.A-D 5.2.8.A-D 5.3.8.J 6.3.8.C,D 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.4.8.A,C,D	MP1
Analyze ways in which government affects citizens	5.1.8.A,B,F 5.3.8.C,D,I 5.4.8.A-C 6.1.8.B 6.2.8.D 6.3.8.B-D 6.4.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.4.8.A-D	MP1
Determine and describe the purpose of government	5.1.8.A,C 5.3.8.C,I 5.4.8.A-C 6.3.8.A-D 7.1.8.B 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.3.8.A,C 8.4.8.A,C	MP1
Analyze and explain the ideas that influenced early colonial governments	5.1.8.A,B 6.2.8.F,G 6.3.8.A	MP1

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<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
	6.4.8.A 7.1.8.A 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.A-D 8.4.8.A-D	
Justify the arguments written in the Declaration of Independence	5.1.8.A,C,D 8.1.8.A,B 8.2.8.A,B 8.3.8.A-D 8.4.8.C,D	MP1
Identify the weaknesses of the nation’s first government	5.1.8.B,C 5.2.8.C 5.3.8.C,I 6.3.8.C 8.1.8.A 8.2.8.A,B 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Identify and explain the ideas about government the delegates to the Constitutional Convention borrowed from Great Britain	5.1.8.A,C,D 8.1.8.B 8.2.8.A,B 8.4.8.A-D	MP1
Compare and contrast the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists and describe how they resolved their differences	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.D,H 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A,C,D	MP1
Analyze and describe the compromises that were made about representation	5.2.8.B-D 5.3.8.G 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.B 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Explain how the US government became stronger under the Constitution	5.1.8.A,C-E 5.2.8.A-D 5.3.8.A 6.3.8.B 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Distinguish the purpose of each of the principles within the Constitution	5.1.8.C,D 5.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Explain why the Constitution is called a “living document”	5.1.8.C,D 5.2.8.B,D 5.3.8.A 8.2.8.A,B 8.3.8.A-D 8.1.8.A,B	MP1
Analyze the freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights	5.1.8.A,C,D 5.2.8.A-D 5.3.8.C 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.B	MP1
Compare and contrast the Federal and state powers	5.1.8.E 5.3.8.A-C	MP1

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	7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.B,C	
Identify and explain why there must be some limits on individual rights	5.1.8.A-D 5.2.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.D	MP1
Determine and explain which civil liberties are protected by the first amendment of the Bill of Rights	5.1.8.C,D,E 5.2.8.A 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.B,C	MP1
Determine and explain which civil liberties are protected by the Bill of Rights, particularly the 2 <sup>nd</sup> – 10 <sup>th</sup> amendments	5.1.8.C,D,E 5.2.8.A 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.B,C	MP1
Examine how the Bill of Rights places limits on the power of government	5.1.8.C,D,E 5.2.8.A 5.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.3.8.B,C	MP1
Evaluate reasons for the creation of the 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , and 15 <sup>th</sup> Amendments	5.1.8.A,D 5.2.8.A-D 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Identify which amendments extended Americans' voting rights and explain the impact these extended rights had on our country	5.1.8.A,E 5.2.8.A,D 5.3.8.B 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Analyze the continuing challenge of citizens in protecting their own rights	5.1.8.A 5.2.8.A,B 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A-D	MP1
Determine and explain the important duties and responsibilities of US citizens	5.2.8.A-D 8.3.8.A,D	MP1
Analyze and explain the organization of Congress	5.1.8.C 5.3.8.A,D 7.1.8.A 8.3.8.A,B	MP2
Compare and contrast the qualifications, terms, duties, and benefits of a representative and a senator	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A-D 5.4.8.B 6.5.8.A 7.1.8.A	MP2
Describe the major congressional leadership posts and explain how they are filled	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.D	MP2
Describe how Congress uses its powers to meet the goals stated in the Constitution	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A-D 6.3.8.C	MP2

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<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
	8.3.8.A,D	
Explain how limits on the power of Congress protect the rights of citizens	5.1.8.C 5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A	MP2
Analyze the legislative process of how a bill works its way through Congress	5.3.8.A,B 8.3.8.D	MP2
Explain the President’s role in the lawmaking process	5.3.8.A,B 8.3.8.A,D	MP2
Explain the qualifications, terms, and benefits of the president	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D 6.5.8.A	MP2
Examine how the executive branch is organized	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D	MP2
Explain the order of presidential succession	5.2.8.A 5.3.8.A,D	MP2
Describe the President’s role as head of the executive branch	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D	MP2
Identify and describe the president’s legislative influence and judicial powers	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D 6.3.8.B 8.3.8.A	MP2
Identify and explain the purpose of the Executive Office of the President	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,C,D 5.4.8.B	MP2
Examine the roles and duties of the federal bureaucracy	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A-D 8.3.8.A,C,D	MP2
Explain the need for laws and a legal system	5.1.8.A,C 5.3.8.C	MP2
Examine how laws guarantee equal justice for all citizens	5.1.8.D,A,D,E 5.3.8.B,C 8.3.C,A,B	MP2
Describe the role of the courts in our legal system	5.3.8.A,C,F 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A,D	MP2
Explain the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, federal courts, and state courts	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.F 7.1.8.B	MP2
Identify how the judicial nomination process works and how a justice is selected to be a member of the Supreme Court	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D,F,H 8.3.8.A	MP2
Analyze the importance of judicial review	5.1.8.E 5.3.8.A 8.3.8.A-D	MP2
Identify the roles of the executive and legislative branches in foreign policy	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A 5.4.8.B,D 6.3.8.D	MP3
Describe how the United States has met the challenges of global security and the global economy	5.4.8.A-D 6.3.8.D 7.1.8.A,B 7.3.8.A	MP3

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	8.1.8.A,B 8.4.8.A-D	
Describe the United Nations and how it tries to improve life for all people	5.1.8.A,F 5.4.8.A-D 6.4.8.C 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.4.8.A-D	MP3
Describe how US foreign policy developed in the early years of the nation	5.4.8.A-D 6.3.8.B,D 6.4.8.B 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.3.8.A-D	MP3
Explain the origins of the Cold War and describe how it affected US foreign policy	5.1.8.F 5.4.8.A-D 6.1.8.B 6.2.8.E 6.3.8.B,D 6.4.8.A-D 7.1.8.A,B 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A,B 8.4.8.A-D	MP3
Identify recent world events that have caused US foreign policy to change	5.2.8.B 5.4.8.A-D 6.3.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.4.8.A-D	MP3
Describe the powers of the states	5.1.8.E 5.3.8.A-C 6.3.8.B,C	MP3
Compare and contrast the Pennsylvania state constitution with the United States Constitution	5.1.8.C-E 5.3.8.A 8.2.8.A-D	MP3
Analyze the need for balance between the national and state government	5.1.8.E 5.3.8.A,C	MP3
Describe how state legislatures are organized	5.3.8.A,D	MP3
Compare state legislatures to the US Congress	5.3.8.A-D	MP3
Identify ways in which citizens can influence state governments	5.2.8.D 5.3.8.E,G	MP3
Describe the powers of the governor	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D	MP3
Compare state executive officials to the President's executive officials	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,D	MP3
Explain the role of the state executive agencies	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A,C,D	MP3
Describe how state courts are organized	5.3.8.A,F	MP3
Explain how state court judges are selected	5.3.8.A,E,F	MP3

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<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
Examine Supreme Court rulings on the balance between state and federal powers	5.1.8.D 5.2.8.C 5.3.8.A 8.3.8.A,B,D	MP3
Define the term city and identify the services city governments provide	5.3.8.C,I 7.1.8.A	MP3
Identify various forms of city government and their functions	5.1.8.A,B,C 5.3.8.C,I	MP3
Explain how local governments are established and why they are needed	5.1.8.A,B,C 5.2.8.C,D 5.3.8.C,D,I	MP3
Analyze the organization of county government and define the main purposes of its levels	5.2.8.C,D 5.3.8.C,D,I	MP3
Categorize the elected officials of local county governments	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.D 8.2.8.A	MP3
Explain why townships and special districts developed, and describe how each function	5.1.8.A 5.3.8.C,I 7.3.8.A	MP3
Determine why villages and boroughs were created, and describe how they operate	5.1.8.A 5.3.8.C,I 7.3.8.A	MP3
Analyze local government services and explain how local governments pay for these services	5.3.8.C,G,I 6.3.8.C	MP3
Examine how local, state, and federal governments cooperate and compete	5.3.8.A-D,I 6.1.8.B 6.2.8.E,G 6.3.8.A-C 6.4.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.2.8.A,D 8.3.8.A,D	MP3
Examine how the legislative branch creates the federal budget	5.3.8.A,C 6.3.8.B,C	MP3
Explain how the government raises money	5.3.8.A,C,I 6.3.8.C	MP3
Identify the different types of taxes	5.3.8.I 6.3.8.C	MP3
Define tariffs and explain how they can be used to help the US economy	5.3.8.I 5.4.8.A 6.1.8.B 6.3.8.C,D	MP3
Describe how the government manages its money	5.3.8.A,I 6.3.8.B	MP3
Explain the reasons for national debt	5.3.8.I 6.2.8.D 6.3.8.A-D,H	MP3
Identify the purposes of political parties	5.1.8.F 5.3.8.D	MP4
Examine how political parties formed throughout US history	5.2.8.C 5.3.8.D 7.3.8.A	MP4

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	8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A,C	
Differentiate between the two major political parties	5.1.8.F 5.3.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.C	MP4
Determine the role of third parties in our democracy	5.3.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.C	MP4
Examine and compare how local, state, and national party committees are organized	5.3.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.2.8.A 8.3.8.A	MP4
Identify the sources of money for political parties	5.2.8.D 5.3.8.D,G 6.4.8.C 8.3.8.A	MP4
Explain why Congress regulates political contributions	5.3.8.B,C	MP4
Deduce how political parties nominate and campaign for candidates	5.3.8.D,G,H 7.1.8.A 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.C	MP4
Explain the registration and voting processes	5.2.8.A,D 5.3.8.D,E,G 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.A	MP4
Describe how and when elections are held, and who may vote in them	5.2.8.D 5.3.8.C,E,F 7.3.8.A 8.1.8.A 8.3.8.A	MP4
Identify factors that help people win elections	5.1.8.F 5.2.8.C,D 5.3.8.D,G,H 6.2.8.E 6.3.8.B,C 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.A	MP4
Determine the purpose of the electoral college	5.1.8.B 5.2.8.D 5.3.8.A,J 7.3.8.A	MP4
Explain how public opinion is formed	5.1.8.F 5.3.8.G,H 5.4.8.D 6.4.8.B 7.3.8.A	MP4
Analyze the importance of public opinion to politicians and government officials	5.3.8.D,G,H 6.4.8.C 7.3.8.A	MP4
Identify interest groups and explain their role in the political system	5.3.8.G 6.4.8.C	MP4

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<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
	6.5.8.D	
Identify the types of mass media	5.3.8.H 6.4.8.D	MP4
Determine how the mass media influences politics and government	5.1.8.F 5.3.8.H 5.4.8.D 6.4.8.D 8.3.8.C	MP4
Assess the importance of the media in election campaigns	5.1.8.F 5.3.8.H 6.4.8.C 8.1.8.A,B	MP4
Describe the modern American family as well as laws governing family units	5.2.8.A 5.3.8.B 6.4.8.B 8.3.8.A,C	MP4
Analyze the benefits of attending school	5.2.8.A 5.3.8.C,I 6.3.8.A 8.1.8.A	MP4
Recognize the different types of US communities	6.4.8.A 7.1.8.B 7.3.8.A 8.3.8.A,C,D	MP4
Explain how citizens can serve their communities	5.2.8.A-D 8.3.8.A	MP4
Analyze how good citizenship is related to developing good communities	5.2.8.A-D 8.3.8.A	MP4
Explain why communities need laws and regulations	5.1.8.A,C 8.1.8.A	MP4
Identify the kinds and causes of crime	5.1.8.A 6.1.8.B,D	MP4
Describe the different criminal procedures	5.1.8.A,E 5.2.8.A,B 5.3.8.F	MP4
Interpret the duties and responsibilities of citizens	5.1.8.D,E 5.2.8.A-D 8.3.8.A	MP4
Assess citizens' responsibility to other citizens	5.1.8.D 5.2.8.A	MP4
Compare and contrast the characteristics of the various economic systems	6.1.8.B,C 6.2.8.A,G 7.3.8.A 8.4.8.C	MP4
Summarize the US economic system	6.2.8.B,E,F,G 6.5.8.F 8.3.8.A,C,D	MP4
Examine factors that affect the US economy	6.1.8.A 6.2.8.C,D,F 6.3.8.B-D 6.4.8.A,C,D 6.5.8.A-D,H	MP4

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	7.3.8.A 8.3.8.D	
Explain the government's role in the US economy	6.3.8.B-D 8.3.8.D	MP4
Explain why countries trade with one another	5.4.8.A-D 6.4.8.A-D 7.3.8.A 8.4.8.D	MP4
Identify how international trade affects jobs and consumers	5.4.8.A 6.3.8.D 7.3.8.A 8.4.8.D	MP4
Employ analytical skills to evaluate primary and secondary source documents	8.1.8.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Cite specific text evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources	CC.8.5.6-8.A	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions	CC.8.5.6-8.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Identify key steps in a text's description of a process related to history/social studies	CC.8.5.6-8.C	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies	CC.8.5.6-8.D	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Describe how a text presents information (e.g., sequentially, comparatively, causally)	CC.8.5.6-8.E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Identify aspects of a text that reveal an author's point of view or purpose	CC.8.5.6-8.F	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts	CC.8.5.6-8.G	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Distinguish among fact, opinion, and reasoned judgment in a text	CC.8.5.6-8.H	MP1 MP2

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		MP3 MP4
Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source on the same topic	CC.8.5.6-8.I	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
By the end of grade 8, read and comprehend history/social studies texts in the grades 6–8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.	CC.8.5.6-8.J.	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Write arguments focused on discipline-specific content	8.1.8.C CC.8.6.6-8.A	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Write informative/explanatory texts, including the narration of historical events, scientific procedures/ experiments, or technical processes	8.1.8.C CC.8.6.6-8.B	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience	8.1.8.C CC.8.6.6-8.C	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed	CC.8.6.6-8.D	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and present the relationships between information and ideas clearly and efficiently	CC.8.6.6-8.E	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration	CC.8.6.6-8.F	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation	CC.8.6.6-8.G	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis reflection, and research	8.1.8.B CC.8.6.6-8.H	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4

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<b>Performance Indicator</b>	<b>PA Core Standard and/or Eligible Content</b>	<b>Marking Period Taught</b>
Write routinely over extended time frames (time for reflection and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences	CC.8.6.6-8.1	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Use maps, globes, and other geographic tools to analyze the cultural landscapes and political patterns of areas in the US and the world to interpret past, present and future civic activities	7.1.8.A,B 7.3.8.A	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Describe the influence of mass media on government	5.3.8.H	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4
Describe how mass media influences our view of international events	5.4.8.D	MP1 MP2 MP3 MP4

## **ASSESSMENTS**

**PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content:** The teacher must be knowledgeable of the PDE Academic Standards, Assessment Anchors, and Eligible Content and incorporate them regularly into planned instruction.

**Formative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to conduct in-process evaluations of student learning.

**Effective formative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

- Journal Entry
- Entry/Exit Ticket
- Thinking Map
- Verbal Explanation
- Observation
- Artifacts
- Reflection/Summary
- Quiz

**Summative Assessments:** The teacher will utilize a variety of assessment methods to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional task, lesson, and/or unit.

**Effective summative assessments for this course include but are not limited to:**

- Marking Period Assessment/Final Exam
- Writing a Paper/Essay
- Performance Tasks
- Project
- Tests
- Portfolio