

History/Social Science: Essential Standards - 12th Grade

Principles of American Democracy

Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the United States Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy. (AD12.1)

Students evaluate, and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured. (AD12.2)

Students evaluate, and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society. (AD12.3)

Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the United States Constitution. (AD12.4)

Students summarize landmark United States Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments. (AD12.5)

Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices. (AD12.6)

Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments. (AD12.7)

Students evaluate, and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life. (AD12.8)

Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles. (AD12.9)

Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: Majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in the federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government. (AD12.10)

Principles of Economics

Students understand common economic terms and concepts and economic reasoning. (E12.1)

Students analyze the elements of America's market economy in a global setting (E12.2)

Students analyze the influence of the federal government on the American economy. (E12.3)

Students analyze the elements of the United States labor market in a global setting. (E12.4)

Students analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the United States economy. (E12.5)

Students analyze issues of international trade and explain how the United States economy affects, and is affected by, economic forces beyond the United States' borders. (E12.6)

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills

Chronological and Spatial Thinking:

1. Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determine the lessons that were learned.
2. Students analyze how change happens at different rates at different times; understand that some aspects can change while others remain the same; and understand that change is complicated and affects not only technology and politics but also values and beliefs.
3. Students use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, the frictions that develop between population groups, and the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations, and goods.
4. Students relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions.

Historical Research, Evidence, and Point of View:

1. Students distinguish valid arguments from fallacious arguments in historical interpretations.
2. Students identify bias and prejudice in historical interpretations.
3. Students evaluate major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past, including an analysis of authors' use of evidence and

the distinctions between sound generalizations and misleading oversimplifications.

4. Students construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.

Historical Interpretation:

1. Students show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments.
2. Students recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining cause and effect.
3. Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than solely in terms of present-day norms and values.
4. Students understand the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions.
5. Students analyze human modifications of landscapes and examine the resulting environmental policy issues.
6. Students conduct cost-benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the United States economy.