National Civics Bee®

by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

Finalist Study Guide

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Disclaimer

This Study Guide is intended solely as a preparation resource. It provides an overview of competition structure and content but does not constitute the official Competition Rules. All competition procedures, formats and advancement criteria are governed by the applicable Competition Rules and may be modified as necessary. In the event of any inconsistency, the Competition Rules control.

Welcome

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Dear Educator, Parent, or Guardian,

Thank you for supporting your student as they prepare for the National Civics Bee! This study guide is more than a tool for competition preparation; it's an invitation to explore the principles, history, and practices that underpin our government and civil society. By working together, you're helping your student develop essential knowledge and skills to be an engaged citizen.

This study guide was created by the Bill of Rights Institute, a leading nonprofit organization in civics education, dedicated to empowering educators and students with high-quality resources that promote civic knowledge, skills, and engagement. As the official content partner for the National Civics Bee, the Bill of Rights Institute designed this guide to help you support your student to succeed in the competition while deepening their understanding of the principles that shape our democracy.

The study guide is divided into 10 sections, each designed to provide the scope of knowledge your student needs. Here's how you can help them use each section effectively:

1. Topic Introduction Essays: Use these short essays to introduce the main ideas of each topic. These essays offer an overview that can help set the stage for deeper exploration.
    a. Essential and Guiding Questions: Use these questions as prompts for discussions, debates, or written reflections. They are designed to encourage critical thinking and deeper engagement with the material.
2. Key Ideas: Review these terms and concepts carefully. They form the foundation of the questions your students will encounter in the competition.
3. Primary Sources: Analyze these historical documents and connect them to the concepts they're studying.
4. Resources and Activities: Incorporate the provided interactive activities and resources into your preparations.These are great tools for applying what students learned and preparing them for competition rounds.
5. Watch this video to learn how to make the most of this study guide! You'll get essential context on how to use it effectively, along with practical study strategies to engage with the content and prepare for the competition.

Thank you for your dedication to fostering informed, engaged citizens. We wish you and your students the best of luck as they prepare for the National Civics Bee. Together, let's cultivate a generation of civic leaders!

Sincerely,

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National Civics Bee Finalist Study Guide

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Welcome to the National Civics Bee!

Congratulations!

You are a finalist in the National Civics Bee! Your essay stood out to a panel of judges as one of the best among all the students who entered. You already showed your passion for civics by choosing an issue that matters to your community and coming up with a thoughtful solution.

What is the National Civics Bee?

The National Civics Bee helps students like you learn more about civics and your role as a citizen. As a finalist, you're now competing in an exciting event that will test your knowledge of civics.

How This Study Guide Will Help You

This study guide is your tool for success. It was created by the Bill of Rights Institute (BRI), an organization dedicated to teaching civics. They make learning about history, government, and citizenship interesting and easy to understand. The guide is divided into 10 topics, with key ideas, fun activities, and real historical documents to help you feel ready for the competition.

Here's what you'll find:

- Introductions: Each topic starts with a short overview and questions to help you think about the main ideas and make connections.
- Key Ideas: Important terms and concepts you need to know for the competition.
- Primary Sources: Historical documents that show civics in action.
- Resources and Activities: Fun ways to practice what you've learned and build your knowledge.
- Study Guide Video: Watch this video for study tips and strategies to help you use this study guide!

What You Need to Know

The first two rounds of the competition include multiple-choice quizzes that test your knowledge of the ideas, events, and people covered in this guide. For Round III, you'll answer questions from judges about your original essay. Review the materials, complete the activities, and practice explaining your ideas—they'll help you feel confident and ready to compete!

Good Luck!

We are so proud of your achievement and excited to see what you accomplish. Best of luck as you prepare for the National Civics Bee!

Competition Rounds

Round	Format	Participants	Notecard Allowed
Round I	10 multiple choice questions	All finalists	No
Round II	10 multiple choice questions	All finalists	No
Tiebreaker (if needed)	Additional multiple-choice question(s)	Tied finalists only	No
Round III	Judge Q&A	Highest scoring finalists only	Yes

Rounds I and II

Format and Scoring

During Rounds I and II, all finalists will answer the same multiple-choice questions within the allotted time. Each correct answer will receive one point, and each incorrect answer or unanswered question will receive zero points. Each Round is made up of 10 multiple-choice questions.

You may be provided a device or other method to respond during the event, where you can read the questions, see how much time is left, and select an answer. There will be an emcee at the event who may read the question and answer choices aloud.

The questions may become increasingly difficult. The points from each round are cumulative; that is, points from Round I will be added to the points from Round II. A leaderboard may be displayed showing point totals for each student.

Finalists with the highest cumulative scores at the end of Round II will advance to Round III, subject to any approved tie resolution method. Round formats and procedures may vary slightly by competition level and emcee instructions; in the event of any inconsistency, the applicable Competition Rules govern.

Preparation

Questions from Rounds I and II are based on the study resources in this Study Guide. These resources will give Finalists the tools to approach the topics, themes, and ideas covered in the National Civics Bee. The study guide will help you in this process, but it is just a starting point. To learn even more about civics, we encourage you to explore other sources outside this guide to dive more deeply into these subjects.

Rounds III (Judge Q&A)

Format and Scoring

Regional Competition

At the end of Round II, the top finalists advance to Round III. If you are one of the top scoring finalists after Round II in the regional competition, you will give a brief 3-sentence summary of your essay. A panel of judges will ask you questions based on your summary and the original essay you wrote.

- Notecard Rules: You may bring one (1) 4" x 6" notecard with handwritten notes on both sides. Your notes should include an outline or key points, not full sentences or answers. You cannot read directly from the notecard during your response, and no other materials are allowed.

State Competition

At the end of Round II, if you are one of the top scoring finalists, you will advance to Round III to present an approximately 3-minute pitch about the idea in your essay. The judges will then ask you questions based on your pitch and your original essay.

- Notecard Rules: You may bring five (5) 4" x 6" notecards with handwritten notes on both sides. Your notes should include an outline or key points, not full sentences or answers. You cannot read directly from the notecard during your response, and no other materials are allowed.

How you will be judged:

For both the regional and state competitions, your answers will be scored on how well you:

- Show an understanding of civic principles.
- Answer the judges' questions clearly and effectively.
- Use specific examples, evidence, and primary sources to support your answers.

Each judge will give you a score from one to four. These points will be added to your scores from Rounds I and II, and the winners will be ranked based on their total scores. In the event of any inconsistency between this Study Guide and the Competition Rules or emcee instructions, the Competition Rules control.

Preparation for Round III

To enter the National Civics Bee, you answered three important questions in your essay. In Round III, the judges will ask you to explain your answers in more detail or add new information. To get ready, review your essay and think about parts you could improve or explain more clearly. Here are the questions you answered:

1. Identify a specific opportunity, problem, or challenge in your community. What is something in your school, neighborhood, or town that could be improved?
2. Describe the steps you would take to make this change. What will you do to make a positive impact, and why does it matter?
3. Find support to help bring the idea to life. Think about student groups, teachers, local businesses, community organizations, city leaders, or others.
4. Connect your idea to the values that shaped our country. How does your idea reflect the Founding Principles and Civic Virtues of our country? Use examples from the Founding Principles and Civic Virtues to show how your idea reflects the responsibilities of citizenship.

Remember that your ideas need to connect to Founding Principles and Civic Virtues. To learn more about them, check out this resource: Founding Principles and Civic Virtues.

Sample Judge Question	Sample Follow-up Judge Questions
What is the problem, and how do different members in your community or neighborhood view it?	• Who is affected, and why does it matter? • What are different points of view on what causes the problem, or how can it be solved?
What civic principles or systems could help to address the problem?	• Which members of local government (roles, titles, names) would be involved in making your idea a reality?
What is your idea or recommendation for solving the problem?	• What resources would be involved in executing your idea?
What primary sources provide supporting evidence or examples for your idea or recommendation?	• Are there research reports or newspaper articles that provide evidence to support your idea? • Are there any laws that relate to implementing your idea?

Khan Academy - Khanmigo Activity

AI-Powered Study Resource

Khan Academy has designed a dedicated resource to study for the National Civics Bee. The following section will help parents of Finalists set up their accounts. Additional information is included at the end of the Study Guide.

Parent Instructions

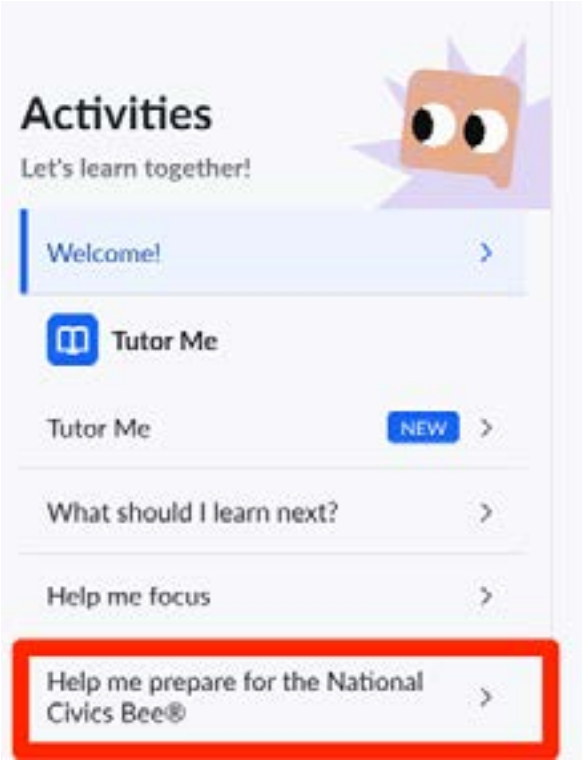
This Khanmigo activity is designed to help your student practice and prepare for Round III of the competition, where they will answer questions from the judges about their essay. Here's how to give your student access to Khanmigo and how it works:

- Sign up for a Khan Academy account.
    - Once you set up your (or log into an existing) account, you will create an account for your child and then provide them access to Khanmigo.
- Once your student has access, they can access Khanmigo tools by clicking on Khanmigo in the upper right hand corner.
    - This will display Khanmigo activities.
    - Students should select "Help me prepare for the National Civics Bee"

Once they are in the activity:

- They should pretend they've made it to Round III of the competition.
- After providing a summary of their essay, Khanmigo will ask them questions just like the judges would during the competition.
- They can use the microphone in the chat to practice giving answers verbally. This will help them get comfortable speaking out loud and answering on the spot.
- Keep in mind: On competition day, they will have 3 minutes to answer each question, so they should practice staying within that time limit.
- After answering three questions, Khanmigo will provide feedback on their responses and suggest ways to improve.

This activity will help you feel more confident and prepared for the Judge Q&A portion of Round III! Check out the "Khanmigo FAQs" section on page #24 for more information.



Study Resources

This section helps you get ready for the National Civics Bee with 10 topics that break down the big ideas and questions you'll explore. Each topic starts with an introduction of the main ideas. You learn key ideas, explore real historical documents, and try fun activities from the Bill of Rights Institute to see how civics works in real life. These tools will help you feel confident and ready for the quiz rounds!

Topic 1: Principles and Virtues

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: Principles and Virtues here.

Key Ideas

Use the links below to explore the key ideas.

- Founding Principles: The American government is built upon a philosophical foundation that makes an argument for a constitutional republic.
- Civic Virtues: Good habits, or virtues, promote self-government and help guarantee the maintenance of our republican government.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Selections from Benjamin Franklin's Autobiography (1791)
- Selections from Martin Luther King Jr.'s Letter from a Birmingham Jail (1963)
- Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863)

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

Constitutional Principles	Civic Virtue and Our Constitutional Republic	What is Virtue?
Benjamin Franklin and Civic Virtue	Responsibilities of Citizenship	The Responsibilities of Frederick Douglass

Topic 2: The Community and the Citizen

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Community and the Citizen here.

Key Ideas

Refer to these definitions as a starting point for each of these themes. Consider them throughout your studying, especially with the primary sources listed below.

- Human Nature: Refers to the inherent characteristics, tendencies, and behaviors that define humanity. Enlightenment thinkers, whose ideas heavily influenced the founders of the United States, believed that understanding human nature was essential for designing a just and effective government. They emphasized that human beings are rational and capable of self-governance but also acknowledged their potential for selfishness and ambition. This dual view of human nature led to the creation of a government system with checks and balances, to mitigate the potential for abuse of power while promoting the common good.
- Civil Society: Refers to the complex network of freely-formed, voluntary political, social, and economic associations. Among the many nongovernmental actors making up civil society are groups such as parent, teacher, professional, and business associations; labor unions; religious, charitable, and youth organizations; and social and fraternal clubs. A vital civil society is an essential component of a constitutional democracy because it prevents the abuse or excessive concentration of power by the government. The organizations of civil society also "are public laboratories in which citizens learn democracy by doing it."
- Role of the Government: To create and enforce laws, provide public goods and services, protect the rights and freedoms of individuals, maintain order, and ensure national security. Governments are also responsible for promoting the general welfare of society through policies that address economic stability, social justice, and public health. In a democratic system, the government is accountable to the people and derives its authority from the consent of the governed, balancing the need for authority with the protection of individual liberties.
- Types of Government: Government may be described as the formal institutions and processes of a politically organized society with authority to make, enforce, and interpret laws and other binding rules about matters of common interest and concern, such as society's order, security, and prosperity. Understand the different types of government including, democracy (direct and representative), republic, monarchy (absolute and constitutional), authoritarianism, totalitarianism, oligarchy, theocracy, socialism, and communism.
- Rule of Law: Government and citizens all abide by the same laws, regardless of political power. Those laws must be stable and justly applied.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Aristotle Selections from Book I Nicomachean Ethics (circa 350 BCE)
- Aristotle Selections from Book I The Politics (circa 350 BCE)
- John Locke Second Treatise of Government (1689)
- Montesquieu Spirit of the Laws (1748)
- Alexis de Tocqueville- Selections from Democracy in America (1835, 1840)
- George Washington Selections from Farewell Address (1796)
- Abraham Lincoln Selections from Address to the Young Men's Lyceum of Illinois (1838)

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

Frederick Douglass and Identity: Resurrection to the Heaven of Freedom	Communities	The Role of Government
Equal and Inalienable Rights	Establishing a Government of Laws, Not Men: George Washington's Retirement and Responsibility	Ancient Republics and European Charters
Comparing the Second Treatise to the Declaration of Independence	Popular Sovereignty and Consent of the Governed	

Topic 3: The American Experiment

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The American Experiment here.

Foundational Documents

Use the links below to explore the key ideas.

- Declaration of Independence (1776)
- The Constitution (1787)

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Magna Carta (1215)
- Mayflower Compact (1620)
- English Bill of Rights (1689)
- The Rights of the British Colonies Asserted and Proved (1764)
- Acts of Parliament
    - Sugar Act (1764)
    - Stamp Act (1765)
    - Quartering Act (1765)
- Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania (1767-1768)
- Intolerable Acts (1774)
- Declaration of Resolves of the First Continental Congress (1774)
    - Excerpts from this lesson on the Path to Independence
    - Primary Source Closes Read Video
- Common Sense (1776)
- Articles of Confederation (1781)
- Memorial and Remonstrance (1785)
- Land Ordinance (1785)
- Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom (1786)
- Vices of the Political System (1787)

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

The Purpose of Government	The Pilgrims Courageous Journey	Rights and the Declaration of Independence
We Hold These Truths: Thomas Jefferson, The Declaration of Independence, and Identity	The Articles of Confederation	

Topic 4: The Structure of American Government

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Structure of American Government here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Limited Government: To keep the governing power to its proper scope, government must be limited and provide recourse for citizens to be protected from arbitrary power.
- Democracy: A form of government in which ultimate authority is based directly on the will of the people.
- Republic: A constitutional form of government with elected representatives who represent and "refine and enlarge" the will of the people.
- Consent of the Governed: The power of government comes from the people.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- The Constitution of the United States (1787)
- The Bill of Rights
- Madison's Notes at the Convention, James Madison (1787)
- The Federalist Papers
    - 1, 9, 10, 15, 23, 39, 40, 47, 48, 49, 51, 84
- Anti-Federalist Papers
- Abraham Lincoln, Peoria Speech (October 16, 1854)
- Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)
    - Additional documents for Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857)
    - To help you research and identify key information about this case, use this Supreme Court Organizer.
- Abraham Lincoln, Speech on the Dred Scott Decision (1857)

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

Constitutional Convention	The Battle for Balance	The Ratification Debate
George Mason's Objections to the U.S. Constitution	Patrick Henry Speeches	Ratification Activity
Champion of Liberty: James Madison and Diligence	The Bill of Rights and the Founders	Why a Bill of Rights? What Impact Does it Have?
Freedom of Religion: The Establishment Clause – How Separate are Church and State?	Freedom of Religion What Is the Significance of the Free Exercise Clause?	Freedom of Religion: The Constitution, The First Amendment, and Religious Liberty.
Freedom of Religion: Burwell v. Hobby Lobby (2014)	Free Speech: Why is Free Speech Essential to Self-Government?	Free Speech: How has Free Speech Been Both Limited and Expanded and How Does it Apply to You and Your School?

Topic 5: The Operations and Powers of Government

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essays: The Operations and Powers of Government here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Limited Government: To keep the governing power to its proper scope, government must be limited and provide recourse for citizens to be protected from arbitrary power.
- Checks and Balances: Constitutional powers are distributed among the branches of government, allowing each to limit the application of power of the other branches and to prevent the expansion of power of any branch.
- Separation of Powers: The branches of government each have powers to limit the powers of the other branches and to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.
- Federalism: The national and state governments have a balance of separate and shared powers. The people delegate certain powers to the national government, while the states retain other powers; and the people retain all powers not delegated to the governing bodies.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- The Constitution of the United States and Amendments (1787)
- The Federalist Papers
  - 52, 53, 55, 57, 62, 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 78
- Anti-Federalist Papers
- Marbury v. Madison (1803)
  - To help you research and identify key information about this case, use this Supreme Court Research Organizer.

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

The Role of Government	Separation of Powers with Checks and Balances	Republican Government
Due Process of Law	The Structure of the National Government	National Government, Crisis, and Civil Liberties
State and Local Government	Federalism	What is a Federal Government?

Topic 6: Legislative Branch

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Legislative Branch here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Consent of the Governed: The power of government comes from the people.
- Representation: The relationship where elected officials act on behalf of their constituents' interests and preferences in making decisions and crafting policies.
- Democracy: A form of government in which ultimate authority is based directly on the will of the people.
- Checks and Balances: Constitutional powers are distributed among the branches of government allowing each to limit the application of power of the other branches and to prevent expansion of power of any branch.
- Federalism: The national and state governments have a balance of separate and shared powers. The people delegate certain powers to the national government, while the states retain other powers; and the people retain all powers not delegated to the governing bodies.
- Separation of Powers: The branches of government each have powers to limit the powers of the other branches and to prevent any branch from becoming too powerful.
- Landmark Legislation: The laws or statutes that have a significant and lasting impact on society, often marking a pivotal moment or change in public policy or law. These are laws that shaped or redefined social, economic, or political norms and had enduring influence beyond their immediate enactment.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Key Legislation: There are important laws that help us understand how the legislature works and its impact on American government. To help you learn more about these laws, use the Key Legislation Research Organizer and list of key legislation. You can find the text of these laws on the National Archives website. This will help you gather and organize the key information you need!

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

The Constitutional Powers of Congress	The Balance of Power between the Legislative and Executive Branches	The Commerce Clause and the Expanding Powers of Congress
All Legislative Powers Herein Granted – The Legislative Process 1789-1860	The Civil War to 1910: The Golden Age of Parties	Congress in Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries
Congress in the Modern Era	The Nature of Representation in the U.S. Congress	

Topic 7: The Executive Branch

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Executive Branch here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Rule of Law: Government and citizens all abide by the same laws, regardless of political power. Those laws must be stable and justly applied.
- Bureaucracy: A hierarchical organization structured to carry out specific functions within a government. It typically involves complex administrative procedures, specialized roles, and a division of labor aimed at efficiently achieving organizational goals.
- Executive Agencies: Organizations within the executive branch of government responsible for implementing and administering specific laws and policies. They operate under the direction of the president or the governor (at the state level) and are tasked with executing and enforcing regulations within their designated areas of jurisdiction. These agencies often have a specialized focus such as environmental protection, national security, healthcare, or transportation, and play a crucial role in carrying out government programs and services.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- George Washington's First Inaugural Address (1789)
- Thomas Jefferson's First Inaugural Address (1800)
- Abraham Lincoln's First Inaugural Address (1861)
- Abraham Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address (1864)
- Andrew Johnson's Veto of the Civil Rights Act (1866)
- Grover Cleveland's Veto of the Texas Seed Bill (1887)
- Woodrow Wilson's Declaration of War (1917)
- Dwight D. Eisenhower's Farewell Address (1961)
- John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address (1961)
- Ronald Reagan's First Inaugural Address (1981)
- War Powers Resolution (1973)
- Articles of Impeachment of Andrew Johnson (1868)
- Vetoes and Executive Orders: There are some important presidential vetoes and executive orders that help explain the role and impact of the executive branch in American government. To learn more about these decisions, use the Presidential Vetoes and Executive Orders Research Organizer and list to gather and organize key information. You can find the text of these vetoes and executive orders on the National Archives website: https://www.archives.gov/.

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

Presidents and the Constitution	Andrew Jackson and Indian Removal	John Adams and the Alien and Sedition Acts
Rutherford B. Hayes and the Disputed Election of 1876	Richard Nixon and the Watergate Scandal	Thomas Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase
Woodrow Wilson and the Espionage Act	The President as Commander in Chief	Establishing a Government of Laws, Not Men: George Washington's Retirement and Responsibility
John Adams (1735-1826)	Eisenhower and the Little Rock Crisis (1957)	Did Abraham Lincoln Exceed His Presidential Powers during the Civil War?
The Election of 1800	Presidential Inaugurations, Past and Present	Federal Power: Presidents and the Constitution
Theodore Roosevelt: Warrior for Public Justice	You Felt He was Talking to You: FDR's Fireside Chats and Identity	

Topic 8: The Court

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Judicial Branch here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Rule of Law: Government and citizens all abide by the same laws regardless of political power. Those laws must be stable and justly applied.
- Due Process: The government must apply laws and rules equally to all people.
- Equality: All individuals have the same claim as human beings to natural rights and treatment under the law.
- Justice: Having a political order that protects the rights of all equally and treats everyone equally under the law.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Landmark Cases: There are some important Supreme Court cases that help us understand the role and impact of the courts in American government. To learn more about these cases, use the Supreme Court Research Organizer and list of landmark cases to gather and organize key information. This will help you break down the important details and understand their significance!

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

The Supreme Court and the Bill of Rights	Supreme Court Document-Based Questions Resources	Federal Courts in History
The Rule of Law	The Bill of Rights and Due Process	

Topic 9: American Citizenship

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: The Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Naturalization: The legal process through which a foreign citizen or national can acquire citizenship of a country where they were not born.
- Rules of citizenship: Encompass the legal guidelines and criteria that determine how individuals acquire, maintain, and exercise their citizenship.
- Rights of citizens: The entitlements and freedoms granted to individuals by the government, outlined in the Constitution and laws. These rights include civil liberties such as freedom of speech, religion, and assembly, as well as political rights like the right to vote and participate in elections.
- Responsibilities of citizens: The duties and obligations individuals are expected to fulfill to maintain a healthy and free society.

Primary Sources

Use the links below to explore the primary sources.

- Citizenship Oath of Allegiance
- US Citizenship and Immigration Services Naturalization Requirements
- Calvin Coolidge, The Duties of Citizenship (1924)
- Andrew Carnegie, Gospel of Wealth (1889)
- Theodore Roosevelt, "New Nationalism" (1910)
- Barack Obama, Keynote Address at the Democratic National Convention (2004)
- There are some important immigration laws that help explain how immigration shaped American government. Use the Immigration Acts Research Organizer to research and organize key information about these laws. You can find the text of each law or act on the National Archives website.
- Below are two significant Supreme Court immigration cases, to help you research and identify key information about these cases, use this Supreme Court Cases Organizer.
    - United States v. Wong Kim Ark (1898)
    - Afroyim v. Rusk (1967)

Resources and Activities

Use the links below to explore the resources and activities.

Responsibilities of Citizenship from Documents of Freedom

Challenges of American Citizenship in the New Millennium from Documents of Freedom

Defining Citizenship from MyImpact Challenge

Immigration and Citizenship: 3 Lessons

Topic 10: Civics and You

Introduction

Find the Introduction Essay: Civics and You here.

Key Ideas

Use these definitions of key ideas to guide your exploration of the resources below.

- Civic Virtue: The maintenance of our republican government requires people to be vigilant, informed, and virtuous, ensuring that governing institutions are directed towards their right ends. Good habits, or virtues, promote self-government and help guarantee that communities orient themselves towards advancing the spirit of a common purpose. A list of those civic virtues is provided here.

- There are many important people in American history who played key roles in shaping society and the government. Use the Individuals and Civic Virtues Research Organizer and list of people to research and organize key information about their contributions and impact. This will help you better understand how they influenced American history!

Appendix

Sample Quiz Questions

Easy-level questions assess basic knowledge or recall. They may ask you to define a work or remember when a major event took place. Here is a list of easy-level questions:

How many senators does each state have?

A) 1
B) 2
C) 3
D) 4

Answer B

What year did women get the right to vote in the United States?

A) 1920
B) 1776
C) 1918
D) 1898

Answer A

Medium-level questions assess comprehension. These questions gauge whether you comprehend the material beyond recalling basic information. Here is a list of medium-level questions:

Why was the 25th Amendment passed?

A) To create the Electoral College
B) To limit the president to two terms
C) To raise the voting age to 21
D) To establish the order of presidential succession

Answer D

What do an absolute monarchy and an autocracy have in common?

A) A written constitution
B) A national court system
C) A single legislative body
D) A single ruler

Answer D

Hard-level questions involve more analysis. These questions require you to break down information, identify patterns, and apply your knowledge. Here is a list of hard-level questions:

According to Aristotle, what is the best condition for political stability?

A) Extreme democracy
B) Moderate democracy
C) Pure oligarchy
D) Tyranny

Answer B

In Tinker v. Des Moines (1969), what was the primary reason the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the students who wore black armbands to protest the Vietnam War?

A) The Court determined the school violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.
B) The Court ruled the students' actions did not cause a material and substantial disruption to the school environment.
C) The Court found the armbands were considered symbolic speech, which is protected under the Second Amendment.
D) The Court decided the school's rules against armbands were vague and lacked proper implementation.

Answer B

Khanmigo FAQs

This section contains Frequently Asked Questions on how to access, set up, and use your student's Khanmigo Account.

1. What is Khanmigo?
   Khanmigo is Khan Academy's AI-powered learning tool for students. Khanmigo can help your student prepare for the upcoming National Civics Bee®.

2. What is Khan Academy?
   Khan Academy is a nonprofit on a mission to provide a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere. Khan Academy's mastery-based platform provides educational experiences in core subjects from pre-K through early college, including math, science, ELA, civics, computing, and more.

3. Is Khanmigo free?
   Yes. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has made it possible for all finalists of the National Civics Bee® to utilize Khanmigo free for one year.

4. How does my student sign up to use Khanmigo?
   Answer:
   a. Click the link provided by the competition organizers.
   b. You will be guided through the process of creating/logging into your own Khan Academy account and activating Khanmigo.
   c. Turn on access for your student.
   d. Once your student has Khanmigo access they can navigate to "Help me prepare for the National Civics Bee®" via the activities panel on the left-hand side of the screen.

5. I need help with sign-up and onboarding. Where can I find support?
   Please read Khan Academy's Parent quick start guide for self-guided information or submit a support request for direct assistance.

6. What if my student doesn't have a Khan Academy account? Or my student's Khan Academy account is not linked to mine?
   It's okay! Signing up is easy and always 100% free. You can add (and create) a student account from your parent/guardian dashboard. This article will walk you through the steps.

7. How do I enable Khanmigo for my student?
   Once your student has an account you can enable Khanmigo from your parent/guardian dashboard. See the steps and screenshots here.

8. Can my student activate their own Khanmigo account?
   Any student under the age of 18 is required to have a parent or guardian activate Khanmigo on their behalf.

9. How does my student use Khanmigo to practice for the National Civics Bee?
   Once in Khanmigo activities, your student can navigate to the National Civics Bee® activity in the list of activities on the left-hand side of the screen. Once in the activity students use Khanmigo to receive feedback on presenting their essay and answering the judges' questions. For tips on how to use Khanmigo, check out this short video here.

10. Is Khanmigo used for civics education only?
    Your student can use Khanmigo to study more than civics. There are Khanmigo activities for students across a wide variety of subjects including math, science, and more. Khanmigo helps students understand content and work through practice exercises. When students are stuck, Khanmigo guides students through structured problem-solving, empowering them to find the answer.

11. What features are available to me as a parent or guardian
    Khan Academy offers a free parent & family member course that provides an overview of Khan Academy resources.

    In addition, any parent or family member can create a free Khan Academy account. This gives parents and family members the ability to:
    - Assign content on the Khan Academy platform to their learners
    - Track learner progress on assigned content from a Parent Dashboard

    Parents and family members with Khanmigo access can also use 20+ tools, including:
    - Refresh my knowledge: designed to help parents refresh their own knowledge of a topic or subject before assisting their learner.
    - Recommended assignments: receive recommendations on what a learner should focus on next.
    - Make it relevant: designed to increase learner engagement by linking lesson content to a learner's interests.

12. What data will Khan Academy share?

Khan Academy is deeply committed to creating a safe and secure online environment for you and your student. Khan Academy does not sell your personal information to third parties. Khan Academy was established as a nonprofit organization so that their mission of education and your trust will not be in conflict with a for-profit motive. Here is Khan Academy's privacy policy. Khan Academy may share non-personal data elements (such as de-identified, anonymized or aggregated usage data) with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation.

Research Organizers (Worksheets)

Key Legislation Organizer
A graphic organizer to assist students in understanding the historical context and events leading to the creation of specific acts and legislation in U.S. history as well as their immediate and long-term effects.

Presidential Vetoes and Executive Orders Organizers
A graphic organizer to assist students in understanding background, context, and effectiveness of presidential vetoes and executive orders.

Immigration Legislation Organizer
A graphic organizer to assist students in understanding the key features and impact of key immigration acts throughout U.S. History.

Supreme Court Cases Graphic Organizer
A graphic organizer to assist students in understanding the background, context, immediate, and long-term effects of Supreme Court cases throughout U.S. History.

Individuals and Civic Virtue Graphic Organizer
A graphic organizer to assist students in understanding the historical significance of individuals in American history, how they contributed to the maintenance of a healthy and free society, and the importance of civic virtues in citizenship.

Study Resources

iCivics Games

Use this site to play civics games, including such titles as Branches of Power, Counties Work, Do I Have a Right?, LawCraft, and Sortify: U.S. Citizenship.
https://www.icivics.org/games

The Constitution Explained by iCivics

This thirty-five episode series explains the Constitution in short videos.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLK1002PPgA1Dspsd2DIoV8ITiaflL0BGe

The Civic Literacy Curriculum

Explore this free online resource from Arizona State University's Center for Political Thought and Leadership. Access seven study guides to learn more about the Constitution and America's political history.
https://cptl.asu.edu/civic-literacy-study-guides

The National Constitution Center's Interactive Constitution

Learn about the history and meaning of the Constitution on this engaging and comprehensive website.
https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution

Khan Academy's Citizenship Course

Explore the definition of citizenship and understand the roles of citizens.
https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/high-school-civics

CSPAN's U.S. Foreign Policy Goals, Video Series

In this online lesson, students explore U.S. foreign policy.
https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?17949

Periodic Presidents Infographics

Learn about the Constitution, amendments, elections, and presidents in these engaging infographics.
https://www.periodicpresidents.com/civics-bee

Framework

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), mandated by the U.S. Congress, collects and reports information on student achievement in subjects such as mathematics, science, reading, writing, history, geography, and civics. The multiple-choice questions of the National Civics Bee contest align with the NAEP standards for civic knowledge. Students are expected to demonstrate a broad understanding of the American constitutional system and the workings of civil society, both past and present. This civic knowledge component, central to the NAEP framework, is structured around five fundamental and enduring questions:

1 What are civic life, politics, and government?

"Citizens need to understand civic life, politics, government, and civil society so they can make informed judgments about what government should and should not do, how they are to live their lives together, and how they can support the proper use of authority or combat the abuse of political power" (NAEP, p. 19–20)

2 What are the foundations of the American political system?

"The American political system is based on the values and principles of constitutional democracy expressed in such fundamental American documents as the Declaration of Independence; the U.S. Constitution, including the Bill of Rights; the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom; the Federalist Papers, and Anti-Federalist writings" (NAEP, p. 21).

3 How does the government established by the Constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?

"The system of government established by the Constitution has resulted in limited government and a complex dispersal of powers. As a result, Americans live under the jurisdiction of national, state, and local governments, all of whose powers and responsibilities are separated and shared among different branches and agencies" (NAEP, p. 23).

4 What is the relationship of the United States to other nations and to world affairs?

The United States does not exist in isolation; it is part of an interconnected world in whose development it has played and continues to play an important role. The American political tradition, including the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights, has had a profound influence abroad" (NAEP, p. 23).

5 What are the roles of citizens in American democracy?

"Citizenship in American constitutional democracy differs from membership in authoritarian or totalitarian regimes. In the United States, each citizen is a full and equal member of a self-governing community and is endowed with fundamental rights and entrusted with responsibilities. Among those responsibilities is seeing that the rights of other individuals are respected" (NAEP, p. 24).

Source: National Assessment Governing Board, Civics Framework for the 2018 National Assessment of Educational Progress

C3 Framework

The study guide is organized to foster an environment of inquiry, ensuring alignment with the C3 Framework for Social Studies Standards. This framework is instrumental in guiding the educational narrative toward a comprehensive understanding of our American democracy. The C3 Framework states: "IN A CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY, productive civic engagement requires knowledge of the history, principles, and foundations of our American democracy, and the ability to participate in civic and democratic processes. People demonstrate civic engagement when they address public problems individually and collaboratively and when they maintain, strengthen, and improve communities and societies. Thus, civics is, in part, the study of how people participate in governing society."

This statement underscores the essence of civic education - emphasizing the vital role that an understanding of historical context, foundational principles, and active participation plays in nurturing a vibrant constitutional democracy. To facilitate this engagement and understanding, each topic of the study guide is designed to align with specific standards from Dimension 2 of the C3 Framework – Applying Disciplinary Tools and Concepts in Civics.

These standards serve as benchmarks, ensuring the content not only educates but also empowers students to apply civic concepts and tools. By incorporating these standards in each topic, it ensures the study guide is not just a collection of information but a tool for active citizenship and civic participation.

Source: National Council for the Social Studies, College, Career, and Civic Life (C3) Framework for Social Studies State Standards: Guidance for Enhancing the Rigor of K-12 Civics, Economics, Geography, and History, 2013.