Teaching Civic Ideals through Primary Sources

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Objectives

Participants will:
• analyze primary sources using a civics lens;
• discuss how to adapt and modify strategies to use in their own classroom;
• gain practical tips for finding materials and resources to teach civic ideals.
About this Item

Title
[African American children on way to PS204, 82nd Street and 15th Avenue, pass mothers protesting the busing of children to achieve integration]

Contributor Names
DeMarsico, Dick, photographer

Created / Published
1965 September 13.

Subject Headings
- Busing (School integration)--New York (State)--New York--1960-1970

Headings

Notes
Title derived by Library staff.
Civics Principles

**Federalism**: division of power between the state and national governments

**Separation of powers**: system whereby each branch of gov’t retains powers and actions that no other branch possesses or may check

**Checks and balances**: system where one part of government may not take action until another part has approved that action

**Protection of minority rights**: belief that only in rare circumstances can the gov’t limit the rights of the few to benefit the rights of the many

**Civic engagement**: action taken by an individual or group to influence current policy
Federalism: state v. national division of power

Separation of powers: branches of gov’t indiv power

Checks and balances: approve action among branches

Protection of minority rights: protect the rights of individuals

Civic engagement: citizen action to influence current policy
Federalism: state v. national division of power

Separation of powers: branches of gov’t indiv power

Checks and balances: approve action among branches

Protection of minority rights: protect the rights of individuals

Civic engagement: citizen action to influence current policy
Fill in the blanks

This primary source best relates to ________(civic principle) because ________(evidence from primary source).
Additional examples
Additional examples
Additional examples
Additional examples
Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of the said legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the said Constitution:

ARTICLE XIII.

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation.

Passed the House of Representatives January 31st, 1865.

J. C. GOLDS, Speaker of the House.

Approved Feb. 1st, 1865.

Senators and Representatives who voted an the passage of the above joint resolution were the following:

[Names listed, including prominent figures of the time such as Abraham Lincoln, John C. Calhoun, and others.]
Additional examples
Additional examples
Reflect on practice

How can you apply these strategies in your classroom? (face to face or remote)

   Introduce a concept
   Assess
   Prompt inquiry-based research
Finding Civics Resources: Congress.gov

- links to US Founding Documents
- ability to search for topics or current legislation
- watch House and Senate debate and committee work live
- identify Congressional delegation from a student’s state
- access videos on the legislative process for educational use
Finding Civics Resources: Blogs

- highlight a few primary sources for classroom use
- give item background information
- offer activity suggestions
- provide archive of topics

blogs.loc.gov/teachers/
Finding Civics Resources: Primary Source Sets

- Primary source sets (PSS) are already curated items relating to a specific topic.

- Ready for classroom use with a version in PDF format.

- Each PSS also has links at top of the page to analysis tools for teacher/student.
Finding Civics Resources

- Chronicling offers digitized newspapers from 1789-1963

- Search using names, events, or topics like executive orders

- Recommended topics link has curated articles about specific events, people, or ideas

- Can snip image of portion of page would like to use

- Supports civic and media literacy skills

Chronicling America
https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/
Finding Civics Resources

Warren Leffler photos
https://www.loc.gov/resource/ds.00836/
Your Library

Use the largest library in the world online or in person! More about the Library.

Plan Your Visit

Research Centers

Ask a Librarian

Free to Use and Reuse: Cherry Blossoms

Each spring, beautiful cherry blossoms bloom in Japan and in Washington, D.C. The Library has published a book about this annual tradition with original art works from our collections, “Cherry Blossoms: Sakura Collections from the Library of Congress.” Browse more content that is free to use and reuse.
Questions?

- Ask a librarian: [http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/](http://www.loc.gov/rr/askalib/)
- Teacher resources: [http://www.loc.gov/teachers/](http://www.loc.gov/teachers/)
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