

Media and Politics

This class will examine the Bill of Rights, the media, and politics through time. We will begin with questions about our rights as citizens in society. This will be our jumping off point for a review of the Bill of Rights and the origin of government in the United States. These will both be examined through the lens of free speech. With a firm handle on these, we will begin with lessons on media and social media focusing on their role and effects on society. We will apply our knowledge while following a breaking news story for a week looking at how it is covered and how we might cover the same story. After this analysis, we will study trending media stories in various decades in our history. For the final section of the trimester, students will have the opportunity to create their own media as part of a corporation.

Essential Questions:

What influence does the media have?

What is an individual's role in society?

How do politics shape society? How does society shape politics?

Social Studies

Civics and Government

Civ.11 Differentiate among procedures for making decisions in the classroom, school, civil society, and local, state, and national government in terms of how civic purposes are intended.

Civ.12 Assess specific rules and laws (both actual and proposed) as means of addressing public problems.

Common Core State Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.8.7

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.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.8.7

Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.8.2 Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.

Class Structure and Grading:

Class activities 45%

Much of the work for this course will be done in class in the form of activities, explorations and a simulation. Students will be given or create handouts and rubrics for activities. It is important that students keep all of the handouts in a space in their notebook and bring them along with a pen and pencil to class everyday. Participating during in class activities and simulations is essential to success.

Projects, presentations and tests 45%

Some of the work for this course will require group and individual research. This research will culminate in projects and presentations. In the case of group work, students receive both a group and individual grade. Tests may be given from time to time with adequate opportunity for student preparation and study.

Homework 10%

Most homework will consist of follow-up from in class work or work required to meet due dates for portions of a project or activity.