

Civics Unit 3: Parties, Interest Groups, and Media

Unit #:	APSDO-00061114	Duration:	3.0 Week(s)	Date(s):	
----------------	----------------	------------------	-------------	-----------------	--

Team:
Colin McDermott (Author), Cari Andross, John McLaughlin, Louis Pellegrino, Elizabeth Sanborn

Grades:
12

Subjects:
Social Studies

Unit Focus

In this unit, students will understand the roles that political parties, interest groups, and media play in the American political system. Assessments for this unit include a contemporary source analysis and student participation in an oral debate in which they will argue whether these linkage institutions have a positive or negative influence on politics. Primary instructional materials for this course include textbook, primary, and contemporary sources.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Established Goals	Transfer	
<p>Connecticut Goals and Standards <i>Social Studies : 12</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyze how people use and challenge local, state, national and international laws to address a variety of public issues. <i>CIV.9-12.15</i> Analyze how public policies promote changes, intended and unintended, in society. <i>CIV.9-12.18</i> Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, and the theory and practice of democracy in America. <i>CIV.9-12.7</i> Analyze the role of citizens in the U.S. political system, with attention to various 	<p>T1 (T1) Access and analyze text for context, reliability and accuracy to determine relevance. T2 (T4) Communicate information and ideas based on purpose, task and intended audience using appropriate language.</p>	
	Meaning	
	Understandings	Essential Questions
	<p>U1 (U104) Institutions other than governments often have power in society. U2 (U103) Governments allow individuals and groups varying access to participation and power.</p>	<p>Q1 To what extent do parties, interest groups, and media have a positive or negative influence on politics?</p>
Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill		

	Knowledge	Skills
<p>theories of democracy, changes in Americans' participation over time, and alternative models from other countries, past and present. <i>CIV.9-12.2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess options for individual and collective action to address local, regional and global problems by engaging in self-reflection, strategy identification and complex causal reasoning. <i>INQ.9-12.16</i> Determine the kinds of sources that will be helpful in answering compelling and supporting questions, taking into consideration multiple points of view represented in the sources, the types of sources available and the potential uses of the sources. <i>INQ.9-12.5</i> Evaluate citizens' and institutions' effectiveness in addressing social and political problems at the local, state, tribal, national and/or international level. <i>CIV.9-12.5</i> Evaluate how social and political systems in the U.S. promote civic virtues and democratic principles across different contexts, times and places. <i>CIV.9-12.13</i> Evaluate public policies in terms of intended and unintended outcomes, and related consequences. <i>CIV.9-12.16</i> Evaluate the credibility of a source by examining how experts value the sources. <i>INQ.9-12.7</i> Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a compelling question. <i>INQ.9-12.2</i> Explain points of agreement and disagreement experts have about interpretations and applications of 	<p>K1 Parties, interest groups, and the media serve as "linkage institutions" between individuals and governments</p> <p>K2 There are key differences between parties and ideology</p> <p>K3 The role media as the "fourth estate", a mechanism for holding officials accountable and informing the public, has evolved with new forms of media, such as social media</p> <p>K4 Interest groups use lobbying to advance their goals by influencing public policy and elections</p> <p>K5 Although American politics have been dominated by two major parties, third parties have influenced the political system</p>	<p>S1 Compare and contrast the political parties</p> <p>S2 Analyze sources in order to detect bias and determine their credibility</p> <p>S3 Analyze and evaluate influence of linkage institutions on the American political system</p> <p>S4 Support a claim with textual evidence</p>

disciplinary concepts and ideas associated with a supporting question. <i>INQ.9-12.3</i>		
--	--	--