

## Louisiana Content Standards



The Louisiana Content Standards for Civics: Citizenship and Government state,

Students develop an understanding of the structure and purposes of government, the foundations of the American democratic system, and the role of the United States in the world, while learning about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. (Introduction)

In SIRS' study of the Louisiana Content Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking and writing skills.

***What Citizens Need to Know About Government***, addresses the concepts taught in Civics: Citizenship and Government. It presents a framework for understanding America's ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen's role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to develop an understanding of American Constitutional democracy by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students are developing the requisite knowledge and skills deemed necessary for informed, responsible participation in public life.

<[http://www.lcet.doe.state.la.us/conn/menu\\_d.asp](http://www.lcet.doe.state.la.us/conn/menu_d.asp)> [2001, December 6]



**Louisiana Social Studies**  
correlation with  
*What Citizens Need to Know About Government*



**Civics: Citizenship and Government**  
Grades 9 – 12

**C-1A-H2** comparing and evaluating the essential characteristics of various systems of government and identifying historical and contemporary examples of each;

*- Chapter 1 provides information on the various systems of government, authoritarian, government by tradition and democratic. Historical and contemporary examples of each system are included.*

**C-1A-H3** explaining and evaluating issues related to the distribution of powers and responsibilities within the federal system;

*- Chapter 2 explores the structure of the federal government and explains the concept of separation of powers.*

**C-1A-H4** explaining the organization of functions of local, state, and national governments and evaluating their relationships;

*- Chapters 10 and 11 focus on state and local governments, respectively.  
- Students may link to state constitutions from Chapter 10.  
- The U.S. Conference of Mayor’s Home Page is accessible from Chapter 11.*

**C-1A-H5** evaluating the role and importance of law in the American political system and applying criteria to evaluate laws;

*- Chapter 3, The Constitution, explains the supremacy of law set forth in Article Six.  
- Chapter 7 explains the judicial system. Students learn about the various specialized courts.*

**C-1A-H6** examining the major responsibilities of the national government for domestic and foreign policy;

- *Chapter 27 traces national defense issues from early military power to the war on terrorism.*
- *Chapter 28 explains the intricacies of foreign policy decision-making.*

**C-1A-H7** explaining how government is financed through taxation;

- *In Chapter 12, Paying for Government, students learn how government is financed through taxation.*

**C-1B-H1** analyzing the central ideas and historical origins of American constitutional government and evaluating how this form of government has helped to shape American society;

- *Chapter 1 examines the roots of American democracy and provides links to primary source documents such as, the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, the Declaration of Resolves of the First Continental Congress and the Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress.*

**C-1B-H2** explaining the basic democratic beliefs and principles of constitutional democracy in American society and applying them to the analysis of issues of conflicting beliefs and principles;

- *Chapter 3 allows students to read the U.S. Constitution to gain an understanding of the basic tenets of American constitutional democracy.*

**C-1B-H3** analyzing the nature of American political and social conflict;

- *Part II, Problems of Government, features social and political topics such as, environment, ethics, health care, and poverty. Students can read supplemental articles and access web sites that offer contrasting viewpoints on all chapter topics.*

**C-1B-H4** evaluating issues related to the differences between American ideals and the realities of American social and political life;

- *In Chapters 7 and 9, students can read landmark Supreme Court decisions to understand how political and social conflicts have been resolved.*

**C-1B-H5** evaluating the roles of political parties, campaigns, and elections in American politics;

*- Chapter 16 explores the two-party system and the role third parties and independents play in the political structure. Students learn what a political campaign entails by accessing timely articles that focus on modern day campaigns.*

**C-1B-H6** analyzing the historical and contemporary roles of associations and groups in local, state, and national politics;

*- Chapter 13 provides a framework for understanding the role pressure groups, lobbies, and Political Action Committees play in local, state and national politics.*

**C-1C-H1** analyzing how the world is organized politically and evaluating how the interaction of political entities, such as nation-states and international organizations, affects the United States;

*- Chapter 28 allows students to link to international organizations such as, NATO, The World Bank, and the Human Rights Commission.*

**C-1C-H2** analyzing the major foreign policy positions of the United States and evaluating their consequences;

*- From Chapter 28, students can access current articles addressing contemporary foreign policy issues, such as, "Post Taliban Afghanistan: Weak Center, Strong Regions."*

**C-1C-H3** evaluating the impact of American ideas and actions on the world and analyzing the effects of significant international developments on the United States;

*- Chapter 28 discusses foreign aid and cultural exchange.*

**C-1D-H1** evaluating and defending positions on issues regarding the personal, political, and economic rights of citizens;

*- Chapter 9 examines minority rights and civil liberties.*

**C-1D-H2** evaluating and defending positions regarding the personal and civic responsibilities of citizens in American constitutional democracy;

- *Chapter 14 delineates the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*

**C-1D-H3** explaining and evaluating the various forms of political participation that citizens can use to monitor and shape the formation and implementation of public policy;

- *Chapter 13 explores various forms of political participation such as participating in public opinion polls and citizen's lobbies. Students may visit the Common Cause web site to learn about lobbying organizations.*

**C-1D-H4** analyzing and evaluating the importance of political leadership, public service, and a knowledgeable citizenry to American constitutional democracy.

- *The following chapters provide an understanding of the importance of political leadership and public service:*

- *Chapter 4, The Presidency*
- *Chapter 5, The Cabinet*
- *Chapter 6, The Congress*
- *Chapter 7, The Bureaucracy*