

## West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives



The West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives for Civics and Government emphasize the rights and responsibilities of the individual along with the study of the structure and function of government. Students develop the skills necessary:

- to make informed decisions;
- to resolve conflicts peacefully;
- to articulate and defend positions; and
- to engage in the civic and political life of their communities. (Introduction)

In SIRS' study of the West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives, 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 skills.

***What Citizens Need to Know About Government***, addresses the expectations for **Civics / Government** and 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 connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas 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 develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives.

<<http://wvde.state.wv.us/igos>>[2002, January 23]



**West Virginia Instructional Goals and Objectives**  
correlation with  
**What Citizens Need to Know About Government**



**Civics/Government**

**C.1** use documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to explain the primary purposes of government

- *Chapter 1 contains the Declaration of Independence.*
- *Chapter 3 contains the U.S. Constitution.*

**C.2** describe the characteristics of government and civil society that relate to civic participation

- *Chapter 15, The Vote, explains how citizen participation in government is achieved through the voting process.*

**C.3** explain the significance of the consent of the governed in the formation of a democratic society

**C.4** explain the rule of law and why accepted rules must be followed by the government and those governed

**C.5** compare and contrast the tension between individual liberty and society's need for order

- *Chapter 1*
  - o *describes the features of a democratic society and the importance of civic participation;*
  - o *discusses the rule of law and provides historical and contemporary examples;*
  - o *contains links to the 18<sup>th</sup> century philosophers such as Locke, Montesquieu, and Rousseau who wrote about the rights of man and the powers of government.*

**C.6** identify examples of how individual rights are protected and how the government promotes the common good

**C.7** explain the rights of people to express their views and positions on proposed governmental actions

- ***Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights:***
  - *contains information on the Bill of Rights;*
  - *details the timeless struggle for individual rights. Examples from the Women's Suffrage and Civil Rights movements are enhanced by links to landmark Supreme Court decisions.*

**C.8** compare and contrast direct and representative democracy

- ***Chapter 1 compares and contrasts direct and representative democracy.***

**C.9** explain why the founding fathers chose a republic as a form of government

- ***Chapter 2 examines the founding fathers' fears of a strong central government.***

**C.10** explain the roles of elected officials and their relationship to citizens

- ***Chapter 6, The Congress, provides a link to the House of Representatives and Senate web sites. Students can locate information on all elected representatives, committees, and current legislation.***

**C.11** explain how power is separated and shared in the United States at all levels of government

**C.12** define federalism and differentiate between states and federal governments

**C.13** explain the system of checks and balances provided by the Constitution

- **Chapter 2:**
  - *explains the separation of powers between the three branches of government;*
  - *examines the federal system of government;*
  - *discusses the system of checks and balances.*
- **Chapter 10 examines state government structure and functions.**

**C.14** explain how the rights of those accused of crime are protected in the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments

**C.15** explain the values and interests protected by the right to counsel and due process

- **From Chapter 3, students can access the Constitution and read the language of the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments.**
- **Chapter 9 presents further discussion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment and the concept of due process.**

**C.16** identify and describe United States foreign policy, national security, and objectives

**C.17** describe the importance of foreign policy to individual citizens

- **Chapter 27 presents a discussion of national defense issues.**
- **Chapter 28 explores the foreign policy decision-making process and America's role in a changing world.**

**C.18** explain the process of becoming a citizen

**C.19** explain how United States citizenship differs from authoritarian and totalitarian regimes

- **Chapter 14 examines the rights and responsibilities of citizenship as well as the process of becoming a citizen. A link to the Immigration and Naturalization Home Page is available.**

**C.20** evaluate and defend positions facing on issues contemporary American society (sic)

**C.21** describe and evaluate the ways in which technology might affect civic life in the future

- *Part II, Problems of Government, presents issues that concern all citizens. Topics include: ethics, environment, agriculture, health care, poverty, education, transportation, business, labor and cities.*