

# Civics and Government: Grade 8

Adopted 2009

## Principles and Documents of Government

### Rule of Law

- A. Identify the sources of the rule of law. 5.1.8.A
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### Laws and Government

- B. Outline how different systems of government function. 5.1.8.B
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### Principles and Ideals that Shape Government

- C. Analyze the principles and ideas that shaped local, Pennsylvania, and national governments.
  - Liberty/Freedom
  - Democracy
  - Justice
  - Equality 5.1.8.C
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### Documents and Ideals that Shape Pennsylvania and US Government

- D. Summarize the basic principles and ideals within documents and the roles played by the framers as found in significant documents:
  - Declaration of Independence
  - United States Constitution
  - Bill of Rights
  - Pennsylvania Constitution 5.1.8.D
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### Individual Rights

- E. Compare and contrast the individual rights guaranteed by the PA Constitution versus the U.S. Constitution. 5.1.8.E
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### Symbols

- F. Analyze how political symbols are used by the media and leaders to influence public opinion. 5.1.8.F
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## Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship

### Civics Rights and Responsibilities

- A. Summarize the role of citizens in terms of right and responsibilities in different government systems. 5.2.8.A
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### Conflict and Resolution

- B. Describe how citizens resolve conflicts in society and government. 5.2.8.B

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**Leadership and Public Service**

- C. Describe the role of political leadership and public service. 5.2.8.C
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**Competent and Responsible Citizens**

- D. Describe the citizen's role in the political process. 5.2.8.D
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**How Government Works****Branches of Government**

- A. Compare and contrast the responsibilities and powers of the three branches of government between Pennsylvania and the Federal government. 5.3.8.A
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**Structure, Organization, and Operation of Governments**

- B. Compare and contrast the policy-making process between Pennsylvania and the federal government. 5.3.8.B
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**Government Services**

- C. Describe how local, state, and national governments provide services. 5.3.8.C
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**Leadership and Political Elections**

- D. Identify leadership positions and the role of political party affiliation at the local, state, and national levels. 5.3.8.D
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**Elements of the Election Process**

- E. Describe the closed primary voting process in Pennsylvania. 5.3.8.E
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**Conflict and the Court System**

- F. Explain the various judicial levels of the U.S. and state. 5.3.8.F
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**Interest Groups**

- G. Explain the role of interest groups in the federal government process. 5.3.8.G
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**Media Influences**

- H. Describe the influence of mass media on government. 5.3.8.H
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**Taxes**

- I. Describe various types of projects and services provided through local, state, and national taxes. 5.3.8.I
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**Systems of Government**

- J. Compare democracy to totalitarianism. 5.3.8.J
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**How International Relationships Function****Countries and Conflicts**

- A. Describe how national interests lead to agreements and conflicts between and among countries. 5.4.8.A

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### **Tools of Foreign Policy**

- B.** Describe the foreign policy tools of diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, sanctions, and treaties. **5.4.8.B**

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### **International Organizations**

- C.** Explain how common problems (e.g., natural disasters, ethnic conflict, environmental concerns) are addressed by organizations and governments. **5.4.8.C**

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### **Media and its Influence**

- D.** Describe how mass media influences our view of international events. **5.4.8.D**