

American Government Resource List for Grades 9 through 12

The Resources in this document can be used with the American Government Curriculum Packet for grades 9 through 12.

Books

Nonfiction and Biography

- Every Vote Matters: The Power of Your Voice, from Student Elections to the Supreme Court, 2016 by Thomas A. Jacobs, Natalie Jacobs (Authors).
Encourage teens to recognize the importance of voting and making their voices heard in the democratic process with this timely book focused on Supreme Court decisions that came down to a single vote.
- Fault Lines in the Constitution: The Framers, Their Fights, and the Flaws that Affect Us Today, 2017 by Cynthia Levinson (Author).
Examines the Constitutional origins of modern-day political problems and outlines solutions for these issues.
- The Founders: The 39 Stories Behind the U.S. Constitution, 2005 by Dennis Brindell Fradin (Author), Michael McCurdy (Illustrator).
A collection of brief biographies of the 39 signers of the US Constitution.
- Give Me Liberty! The Story of the Declaration of Independence, 2000 by Russell Freedman (Author).
Describes the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence as well as the personalities and politics behind its framing.
- Presidential Races, 2nd Edition: Campaigning for the White House, 2011 by Arlene Morris-Lipsman (Author).
Describes how election campaigns for the office of president of the United States have changed from the time of George Washington to the Obama vs. McCain campaign of 2008.
- This Is Our Constitution: Discover America With A Gold Star Father, 2017 by Khizr Khan (Author).
This is an informative guide to the U.S. Constitution: its history, ideals, failings, evolution, and promise. The author starts with two sections of interest to him: the individual rights enshrined in the First Amendment and the 14th Amendment, which he believes represents "the goodness and generosity" of America. He also discusses the debates around the writing of the Constitution and walks readers through a plain-language version, annotated with historical context and personal reflections.
- The United States Constitution: What It Says, What It Means: A Hip Pocket Guide, 2005 by JusticeLearning.org, David Eisenhower (Afterword).

This slim title allows you to put the most important document in American history in your back pocket. In conjunction with Justice Learning and The Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnylands and with an introduction written by Caroline Kennedy and an afterword written by David Eisenhower, this pocket guide appeals to the broadest possible audience. Each Article and each Amendment is followed by a clear and concise explanation, in plain English, that is suitable for both middle and high school students.

- What is a Democracy? 2013 by Susan Bright-Moore (Author).
A look at democracy, with explanations of direct versus representative democracy.
- Who's in Charge? 2010 by Andrew Marr (Author).
Introduces politicians and how laws are made, what happens in government and how the reader can get involved.
- A Woman in the House (And Senate): How Women Came to the United States Congress, Broke Down Barriers, and Changed the Country, 2014 by Ilene Cooper (Author), Elizabeth Baddeley (Illustrator).
A chronicle of women's contributions to politics in the United States traces the period between the women's suffrage movement and the 2012 election

Fiction

- The Fixer, 2016 by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (Author).
When a sixteen-year-old girl is sent Washington DC to stay with her older sister, she has no idea that her sister is the capital's number one "fixer." For powerful people looking to make a scandal disappear, she is there to help . . . for a price.
- Homeland, 2013 by Cory Doctorow (Author).
This title is an engaging, thoughtful, and impassioned exploration of the ways in which technology fosters and inhibits communication and security. It also addresses issues that should concern anyone who values his or her privacy.
- Mysterium, 1994 by Robert Charles Wilson (Author).
A Midwestern town is transported to an alternate reality and made prisoners by a corrupt government.
- The Wrong Side of Right, 2016 by Jenn Marie Thorne (Author).
Her mom died last year, leaving her parentless and reeling. So, when the unexpected shows up in her living room, she must confront another reality she never thought possible—or thought of at all. She does have a father. He's a powerful politician. And he's running for U.S. President.

Magazines, Journals, Miscellaneous

- Upfront Magazine from the New York Times
<https://upfront.scholastic.com/>

Online Links

- Abraham Lincoln's Crossroads: In this online game, learn about Lincoln's leadership by exploring the political choices he made.
<http://constitutioncenter.org/lincoln/>

- Engaging Congress is a fun, interactive game that uses primary source documents to explore the basic tenets of representative government and the challenges they face in contemporary society.
<https://engagingcongress.org/>
- George Washington's Mount Vernon: tons of things to explore and learn.
<https://www.mountvernon.org/>
- Seize the Vote: Learn all about voting rights throughout history in this online game
<http://constitutioncenter.org/seize-the-vote/>

Background information for the Educator

- Annenberg Classroom: Civics sites for Educators.
<http://www.annenbergclassroom.org/page/best-civics-sites-for-teachers>
- iCivics: iCivics works to ensure every student in America receives a quality and engaging civic education and graduates from high school well prepared and enthusiastic for citizenship. Contains lessons, ideas, and much more.
<https://www.icivics.org/teachers>