

CIVICS

SEMESTER COURSE

Inquiry-Driven • Project-Based

Stop **drill-and-killing** the minutia of the Constitution and **start empowering** your students to be informed and active citizens.

- ✓ 6 Inquiry-driven, project-based units
- ✓ Capstone research project
- ✓ All student activities in print PDF & Google files
- ✓ Daily lesson plans, answer keys, pacing guides, & instructional slides
- ✓ Free updates for life

**RELEVANT, RIGOROUS,
& READY-TO-GO.**




CIVICS
& AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

WE ARE
BETTER
THAN THIS!

Just some of WHAT'S INCLUDED


Plus, you get all
future updates for
FREE!

INTRO TO AMERICAN DEMOCRACY
INQUIRY UNIT W/ PBL & DBQ




HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS & GOV
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT
INQUIRY UNIT W/ PBL & DBQ




HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS & GOV
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

CIVIL LIBERTIES & THE SUPREME COURT
INQUIRY UNIT W/ PBL & DBQ




HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS & GOV
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

US ELECTIONS & VOTING RIGHTS
INQUIRY UNIT W/ PBL & DBQ




HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS & GOV
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

EOC RESEARCH ESSAY • 3 OPTIONS
CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES



CIVICS PROJECT BUNDLE

CLASSROOM LEXICON POSTERS CIVICS & GOV
12 DESIGNS • 8.5X11 AND 11X17 SIZES




CHECKS & BALANCES
NOUN /tʃeɪkəʊn bəl-ən-sɪz/
A SYSTEM THAT PREVENTS CONCENTRATED POWER BY INVOLVING MULTIPLE BRANCHES IN ACTIONS

CIVICS
NOUN /sɪ-ɪks/
THE STUDY OF THE GUARANTEES AND DUTIES THAT COME WITH CITIZENSHIP

POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY
NOUN /pɒp-ju-lər sɒv-ri-tee/
THE IDEA THAT ANY POWER A GOVERNMENT HOLDS IS BY PERMISSION OF ITS PEOPLE

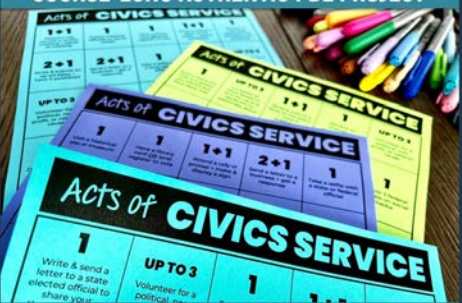
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

CITIZENSHIP TEST + OP-ED ESSAY PROJECT
SEMESTER-LONG TEST PREP & PBL PROJECT




LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

CIVICS SERVICE ACTIVE CITIZEN PROJECT
COURSE-LONG AUTHENTIC PBL PROJECT



LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS
5 MIX & MATCH ACTIVITIES FOR ANY YEAR



LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

SLIDE DECK NOTES TEST BANK
3 BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



3 LECTURE KITS

GET THE FULL COURSE IN ONE DOWNLOAD & SAVE BIG

TOPICS COVERED

include

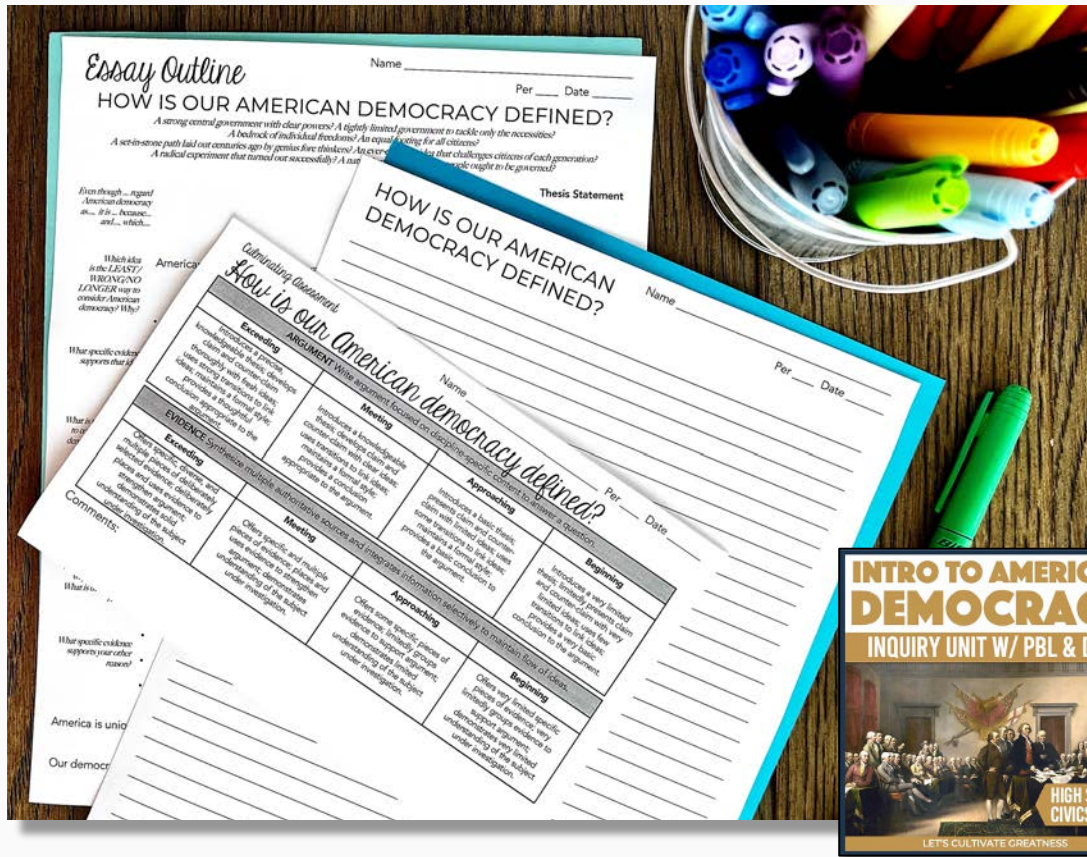
- Key Constitutional Principles
- Founding Documents
- Other Forms of Government
- Voting Issues & Election Prep
- Structure & Basics of all 3 Branches
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Core Civil Liberties
- Landmark Supreme Court Cases
- Theory vs Reality for How Modern Government Works
- Current Constitutional & Political Issues
- Sourcing, Researching, & Writing Skills



“ This course is the best product I’ve ever purchased on TPT. *I read her blog, where she explains how to execute all the assignments. It really challenges your set-in-your-ways style of teaching, even if you're new. I love it so so much!* - **Casidy** ”

EACH UNIT *includes*

- ✓ Unit & daily inquiry questions
- ✓ Unit overview, detailed lesson plans, & answer keys
- ✓ Pacing guide with standards
- ✓ Mix of activities – solo and group, investigative and reflective, plus projects with every unit
- ✓ Daily opener & closing tasks
- ✓ DBQ-Style summative essay tests
- ✓ Print-and-go paper **and** fully editable Google file options of every student resource



“ This course is a **must-have** for a new Civics/ Government teacher or an experienced teacher seeking to change it up. The lessons were **clear, organized and provided all necessary information** (including teacher keys and rubrics) to save time and energy. There were many engaging lessons and activities. - Tara ”

AUTHENTIC PROJECTS

in every unit

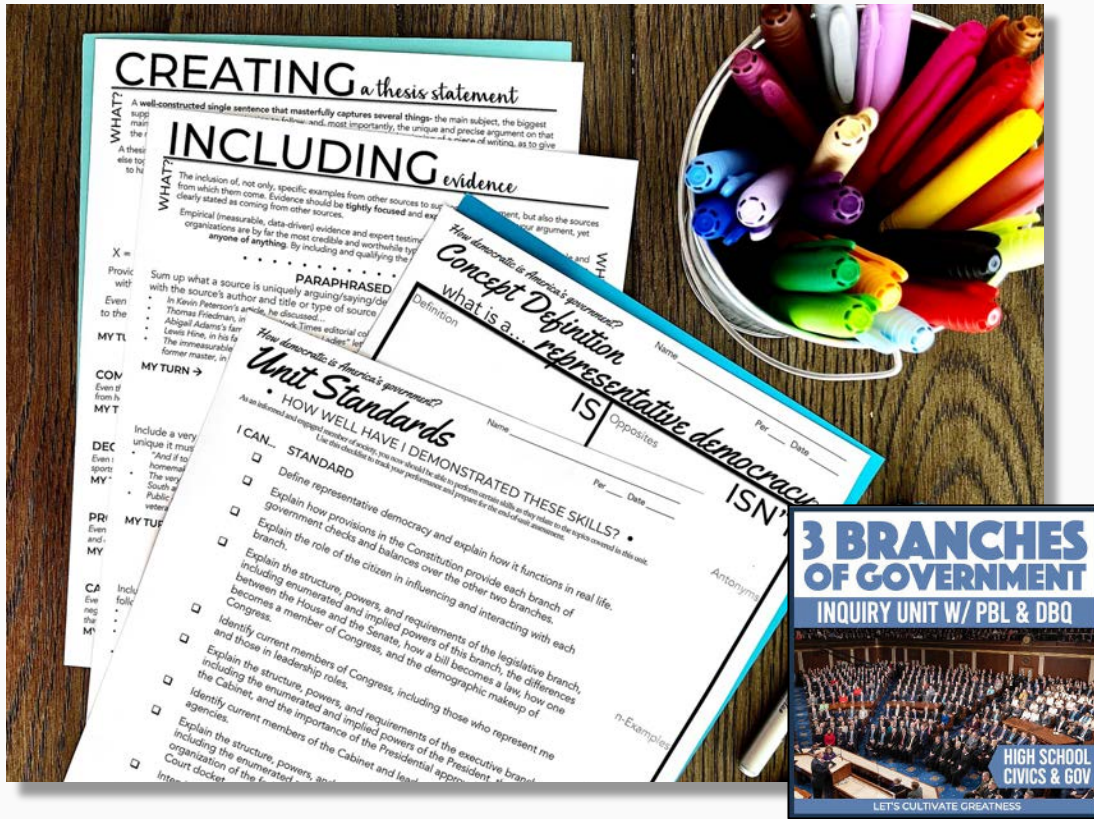
- ✓ **Develop** personal mission statements for year
- ✓ **Vote** in a mock election
- ✓ **Interview** a community member about their thoughts on government
- ✓ **Research & create** a political message button
- ✓ **Complete** community service projects
- ✓ **Study for & take** the US Naturalization Test



“ I love this product. I have never done PBL; however, this course helped me **transform my classroom and teaching style**. Very adaptable lessons. Easy-to-use guides with **very little to no additional preparation**.
EXCELLENT! – Joseph H. ”

SUPPORTS

in every unit



- ✓ Contextual info, sequential student directions, and lesson takeaways for every activity
- ✓ Sentence starters for lesson-closing formative assessments
- ✓ Detailed answer keys
- ✓ Source analysis, research, and writing skill how-to handouts
- ✓ Step-by-step projects & essays
- ✓ Student-friendly rubrics & examples
- ✓ Essay brainstorming & outlining help

This course is an absolute lifesaver! The lessons are easy to implement and complete. The **instructions are super clear**, and the students enjoy the discussion and group activities. Forever grateful and will definitely be buying more from this creator in the future! – **Elise P.**

1 Foundations of AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Exploring Constitutional principles with political cartoons & gummy bears

Closely analyzing Declaration, Preamble, Federalist & Anti-Federalist Papers excerpts

Contrasting other forms of government with examples & gummy bears

Analyzing recent Pew data & current events

Listening to engaging podcasts on these principles

“ This unit is pound-for-pound **the best I have purchased!** Downloaded as a PDF or Google Slides, the assignments are easily paced and aligned. I print off materials and post them on Classroom. I will be purchasing more!! – Kara G. ”





23 BRANCHES *of government*

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Closely reading & analyzing Articles 1, 2, 3 of the Constitution

Exploring checks & balances, including the people's power to check government

Researching the current members of Congress, Cabinet, & Supreme Court

Analyzing current demographic data of officials in the federal government

Researching current elected officials' job approvals & Supreme Court docket

Examining political cartoons

“ This unit helped to connect the **branches of government to everyday life**. It's a great project with LOTS of good resources and information! –

Kelsey F. ”

3 CIVIL LIBERTIES & Supreme Court

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Closely reading key Constitution & Bill of Rights excerpts

Contrasting strict and loose interpretation styles

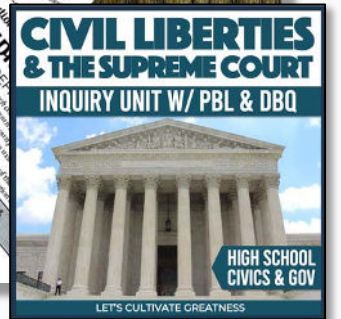
Researching the current members of the Supreme Court

Creating posters of landmark Supreme Court decisions

Exploring the role and workings of federal judges

Researching current job approvals & Supreme Court docket

“ My students **love the depth of this PBL**. They truly embraced studying each of the civil liberties and their Constitutional Rights in relation to the Supreme Court. – Latricia D. ”





4 VOTING, PARTIES & elections

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE

Closely reading founding document excerpts on voting rights

Exploring & contrasting political party platforms

Researching & discussing current candidates and ballot measures

Examining voter party maps

Analyzing voter turnout data

Watching & evaluating candidate debates & print ads

Analyzing political cartoons

“ This is a great unit-- it's hard to find higher level civics projects. This one allows **students to discover on their own, while still including a teacher-centered grasp.** FANTASTIC resource with everything I needed. – Fellow TPT Seller ”

Culminating

RESEARCH ESSAY

Is it time for a 28th Amendment?

Three hotly-debated constitutional issues included in this *capstone PBL project bundle!*

Students *take on the role of advisors* to the President as they *research & write thesis-driven essays* recommending what position the President should take.

- ✓ **Background readings** activities
- ✓ **Step-by-step research & outlining** forms tailored to all 3 topics
- ✓ **Student-friendly rubrics** for easy assessing
- ✓ **Research & writing how-to** reference handouts for supporting every skill
- ✓ **Tons of supports** from start to finish!



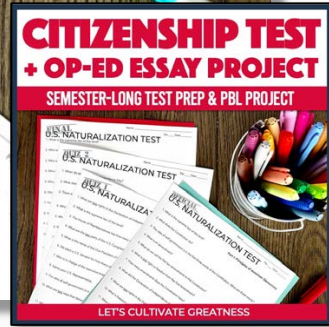
“A comprehensive research project that served as an excellent cumulative, Constitution-based, end-of-year project for my Government students. – Fellow TPT Seller”

COURSE-LONG PROJECTS

options



4-Part Naturalization Test Series build long-term learning of everything covered plus debate if it should be a high school graduation requirement



Civics Service Project encourage real civic participation with several doable actions and multiple ways to integrate into your class requirements

TAKE A PEEK *inside*

every
LESSON

VOTING & ELECTIONS

General Notes continued

Included Support Resources

Paperless Option: Google versions of each student activity are included, both linked in the lesson plans and all together in the Digital Links PDF file. Create and save a master copy of each, storing in a separate folder. Then make a second copy to customize and share with students.

VOTING & ELECTIONS

An inquiry unit exploring the cornerstone of democracy.

Unit Review checklist: "Use for review"

Unit Essay: "The unit's core tenets..."

Unit Test: "The data is not only..."

VOTING & ELECTIONS

Suggested Pacing Guide

Since secondary class periods can range anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes, period length approximates are made for each set of activities. The below estimates account for most work being completed in class, with homework being used to finish work. Decide yourself which activities you'll include, what can be done as homework, and what order to complete them in. Lastly, current events and political topics tend to generate great unplanned and genuine questions from students, so allow some flexibility in time to accommodate them.

VOTING & ELECTIONS

UNIT REVIEW

HOW DOES THIS ALL FIT TOGETHER? *

HOW WELL HAVE I DEMONSTRATED THESE SKILLS? *

VOTING & ELECTIONS

UNIT STANDARDS

I CAN... STANDARD

- Explain how voting is a cornerstone of democracy and a direct way for citizens to participate in government.
- Connect the rationales of the Founding Fathers' to the role voting played in the formation of the U.S. Constitution.
- Discuss the origins and development of voting rights over time.
- Explain how voting and elections involve registration processes, requirements, and deadlines.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different voting methods.
- Explain the functions of political parties, their platforms, and the role they play in elections, including third parties.
- Distinguish the key differences among various political party platforms.
- Analyze and evaluate various forms of political communication and evaluate for bias, factual accuracy, omission, and emotional appeal.
- Research and compare candidates and propositions using credible sources.
- Analyze and evaluate the processes and results of an election.
- Participant in a mock election as an informed voter.
- Analyze and evaluate political cartoons and news media sources during voting and election issues.
- Develop a precise position on a topic and support it with specific examples, organized in a coherent and effective argument.

Unit Overviews give you a bird's eye view of everything at once!

Lesson Takeaway

Pacing guide & standards

Lesson Plans come with step-by-step directions

Supports and guidance for you and students throughout

student-friendly "I can..." statements

step-by-step student directions & rubrics

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Suggested Lessons continued

LESSON PLANS

Time: 2 weeks

Materials: Podcast: The Executive Branch sheet, Article II: Executive Branch packet, The Cabinet poster project & notes sheet, Job Approval Rating sheet, Political Cartoon & News Source sheets

Section Task: This branch was set up to require input by Congress with the position tried to be, as high on as possible.

Topics Addressed: Constitutional provisions and real-life processes, Historical and current practices and issues, Current executive office holders

Skills Addressed: Explain the structure, functions, powers, and requirements of the executive branch covered by Article II, Analyze and evaluate current issues, Cite specific textual evidence to support a claim, Present a position, Analyze and evaluate current issues

Lesson Takeaway: of Article II, the have about it, I didn't realize...

Helpful planning tips

step-by-step lesson plans

Wide range of activities to choose from!

Daily Inquiry & Background context

Podcast: The Cabinet

How democratic is America's government?

Per ___ Date ___

President Washington

How democratic is America's government? • HOW WELL DO THEY REPRESENT YOU? •

Remember, the President is elected with approximately 4,000 executive positions who they assume the office and the power of executive order and because they have personally chosen the people who will carry out those orders.

It is your task to research the following pieces of information about your assigned Cabinet member or independent agency administrator and display it in a visually organized and appealing manner so that it can serve as a learning tool for others. Your classmates will use it to help them decide if they believe those men and women are fulfilling representative democracy, both demographically and in action.

Joseph R. Biden

Background Info

Democrat

Catholic

Law degree from Syracuse U.

Oldest person to assume the presidency at 78

Wife is a community college professor, adult son died of brain cancer in 2015, first wife and one child died in car accident

In Office

Since January 20, 2021

Vice President 2009-2017

U.S. Senator from Delaware for 36 years (elected at 29)

Major Goals & Accomplishments

- Passed the American Rescue Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which included \$300 billion in funds for public health and medical supplies as well as for public school to support students' learning and safety; it also increased tax credits and food and housing assistance to support families
- As Vice President, he helped pass the Affordable Care Act and supported the Cancer Moonshot; as President, he has continued to focus on ending cancer through creating a National Cancer Advisory Board and investing in cancer bridges, and railroads, expand access to clean water and high-speed internet
- Continues to work on passing his Build Back Better plan, which would create free universal preschool and more affordable childcare, extend the Child Tax Credit, and also encourage clean energy through tax credits, building wind turbines and solar panels, and coastal, forest, and soil restoration and conservation

Relevant & real-world connections

every
UNIT

3 WAYS TO LEARN MORE

I'm interested!

Try this shocking & collaborative lesson for FREE!

VOTING RIGHTS TIMELINE LESSON PLANS

Planning & Preparation
Prep enough sets of Timeline matching slip sets for students to work in groups of 3-4.
Click to access the [Google version](#) of this lesson.

Use With
Civics - Elections & Voting or Civil Liberties unit
US History - Civil Rights Movement unit

Materials
Timeline Matching slip sets (1 set per group)
Voting Rights Timeline sheet (double-sided)

Topic Addressed
History of voting rights in America

Lesson Takeaway
It is pretty incredible how recently many Americans received their right to vote. Study the connections to current events.

Skills Addressed
Make personal and real-life connections to content
Work collaboratively to investigate and address a question

More Resources
Click to check out additional resources

VOTING RIGHTS TIMELINE ACTIVITY
WHEN COULD AMERICANS REALLY VOTE?

VOTING RIGHTS TIMELINE
WHEN WERE YOU ALLOWED TO VOTE?

1776 White, land-owning, literate, poll-tax paying men over the age of 21
1856 White men over the age of 21
1870
1920
1991

FREEBIE
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

Download the FREE Course Overview & Calendar to get all the details

CIVICS & AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
A semester course examining relevant-to-today questions, cultivating necessary citizenry skills, and creating authentic products that affect beyond the classroom. COURSE OVERVIEW

Course
9th - 12th grade
Civics & American Government

Time
1 semester

Skills Addressed
Additional documents that established the principles of American democracy
Voting rights and election procedures, candidate and ballot issue analysis
Powers and checks of the three branches of government
Landmark Supreme Court cases that have defined key rights
Importance of and skills needed for civic engagement
Knowledge to pass the U.S. Naturalization Test

Skills Addressed
Determine the central ideas of and cite evidence from a variety of sources
Summarize, organize, and

Enduring Understanding & Outcomes
Driving Question: How can I be an informed and engaged citizen?
Greatness is being equipped with the knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on one's community and the world.

Course Highlights
This class is
• Inquiry-driven, with short, intriguing, units and for each activity), following retention of new knowledge
• Project-based, in which students create the content they are learning into the
• Writing focused, with each unit culminating in a DBO-style essay in which students
• Support plans, an
• Offered files, to
• Develop included
• Highly daily le master
• Write classes
• Encour student
• Built center
• Emb missig

SUGGESTED CALENDAR
Culminate students' research and writing skills in one of three hotly-debated Constitutional issues of Washington DC should become a state. The Electoral College system, and judicial term limits
This project works great as a course final, especially for upper high school or honors students, as it incorporates the college-necessary skills that have been practiced throughout the whole course

SUGGESTED CALENDAR
Click, Off, Week 1 Activity Kit: What does it mean to be American? Start your class strong by posing big questions, establishing enduring themes, and inviting students into Civics with these opener activities.
U.S. Citizenship Test & Civ-Ed Essay Kit: Could I pass the test? This course-long unit is a perfect way to hook students into learning about government in the context of a relevant-to-them inquiry
Test basic knowledge all semester long and culminated with an Op-Ed essay

CIVICS & GOV COURSE OVERVIEW
9TH - 12TH GRADES • INQUIRY PBL CURRICULUM

FREEBIE
LET'S CULTIVATE GREATNESS

Send in your questions on the Contact page

Grab this collaborative activity kit to shock students just how recently many Americans have gained the right to vote! It's perfect for your Voting or Civil Liberties unit!

Confidently know this course fits your needs. Also included is a course calendar & planning tips. Perfect to show admin for approval!

FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

What do you mean by “inquiry-driven”?

Inquiry-driven means using an intriguing question to guide and focus the unit. They correct misconceptions, dig into paradoxes, and challenge ideas. This means activities are framed to deepen understanding and build on each other for students to develop a nuanced, supported answer by the end of the unit.

Traditional units tend to have self-contained activities that comprehensively cover each topic. These can be necessary if students have a state-created comprehensive EOC exam.

These inquiry units take a “less is more” approach. They cover core civics topics through focused angles, allowing more time for critical thinking skills and real-world connections. This curriculum is best for teachers in a more flexible situation who are looking to dive deeper into skill building.

What do you mean by “project-based”?

Project-based means content and skills culminate in an authentic, real-world project that students work towards all unit long. Each unit contains one of these projects, but if you are short on time, you can easily omit any one of them.

Will this work for middle school?

This curriculum is designed for **high school**. It’s not recommended for middle school unless you are willing to make edits and adaptations. Middle school teachers have had success with the smaller activity kits that are also available in the LCG shop.

Is this editable?

Yes! All student materials are available as print PDF pages and editable Google files, so you can customize them to meet your students’ needs.

Is there a pacing guide? Is there a way to see everything at a glance?

Yes! You can download the **FREE Course Overview Calendar** to see a broad view of this semester course, both all the resources in the bundle and a suggested semester calendar. Within each unit is a detailed unit pacing guide and step-by-step lesson plans for every activity.

Will this work for my <insert unique setting here> classroom?

Each unit's preview and product description are **extremely detailed**—be sure to take a close look. Also know that all student materials come with an editable, digital version. If you still have questions, feel free to **leave a Q&A!**

No refunds are offered since these are digital goods.