



# American Government Table of Contents

## Unit Components Explained

Each of our units are single authored and include a series of interrelated and diverse content. Each unit component speaks to a different topic or aspect of the time period and has been specifically chosen to reinforce the material. Each unit is comparable in focus to a chapter in a textbook but, unlike textbooks, you control which items are given to your students. All of our content is customizable and designed to live alongside your own teaching materials so you can combine content to create a unique program of study.

- **Core Essay:** 15-16 page digital Core Essay reinforced with audio, video, animation, and primary sources (includes an adapted version edited to an 11th grade reading level).
- **Topical Essay:** 30-minute original topical essay including slides, audio, author videos, and text. Also available as slide only for in-class use.
- **Problem:** Primary source or data driven problem. Includes a context building background section, video from the author, and an analytical activity (optional for grading purposes) meant to engage students.
- **Document and Response:** Document is a primary source with background and optional quiz to check for understanding. Response is a provocative question with context building background and some evidence. There is an optional brief response writing assignment or poll.
- **Composition:** A long form Core Essay assignment building from one of our problems. Includes background historical work, writing support, and multiple drafts and outlines. Ask about our easy grader! (Starting Spring 2017, ask about customizing our basic composition platform with your writing prompt.)

## Unit 1: The Foundations of American Government by Jack Rakove, Stanford University

Core Essay: The Foundations of American Government

Topical essay: Three Myths of the American Constitution

Problem: Federalist 10

Problem: Federalist 37

Problem: Federalist 51

Document: The Equal Rights Amendment

Document: John Adams, *Thoughts on Government*

Response: Would direct democracy be better?

Response: Why don't all Americans support the Constitution?

Composition: Federalist 10

**Unit 2: Federalism, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties by Ange-Marie Hancock, University of Southern California**

Core Essay: Federalism, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

Topical essay: How to Get Away with a Social Movement

Problem: Voter ID Laws

Problem: The Second Amendment and State Regulations

Problem: The Eighth Amendment and Incarceration

Document: Gibbons v. Ogden

Document: Lesser Known Amendments

Response: Is sexual harassment discrimination or a violation of civil rights?

Response: Should immigrants have civil rights?

Composition: Voter ID Laws

**Unit 3: Political Culture, Public Opinion, and Elections by Melinda Jackson, San Jose State University**

Core Essay: Political Culture and Elections

Topical essay: Understanding Public Opinion

Problem: Voter Participation

Problem: How Your Government Affects You

Problem: The Citizenship Test

Document: The Vote of the College Educated

Document: The Big Sort

Response: Why is the Hispanic vote critical in presidential election?

Composition: Voter Participation

**Unit 4: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Political Parties by Dara Strolovitch, Princeton University**

Core Essay: Social Movements, Interest Groups, and Political Parties

Topical essay: Can Interest Groups Represent the Disadvantaged?

Problem: Advocacy in Hard Times

Problem: Madison and de Tocqueville

Problem: Rapid Social Change and the LGBT Community

Problem: Duverger's Law (Under Construction)

Document: Citizen's United

Document: The US Libertarian Party Platform

Response: What is my political type?

Response: Are parties relevant or essential?

Composition: Madison and De Tocqueville

**Unit 5: The U.S. Congress by Kathleen Dolan, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee**

Core Essay: The U.S. Congress

Topical essay: Apportionment and Representation in the House

Problem: The Gender Gap in Voting

Problem: Congressional Representation and Pork Barrel Politics  
Problem: Congress and War Powers  
Problem: Congress and the Revolving Door  
Document: The US National Debt  
Response: Should Congress eliminate the mandatory minimum sentence?  
Composition: The Gender Gap in Voting

**Unit 6: The U.S. President by Sean Gilmard, University of California, Berkeley**

Core Essay: The U.S. President  
Topical essay: The Presidency and War  
Problem: The President's Use of Media  
Problem: Impeachment: Nixon and Clinton  
Problem: Foreign Policy and the Presidency  
Problem: Character and the President  
Document: The Growth and Opportunity Project (2013)  
Response: Was there a Reagan Revolution?  
Composition: The President's Use of Media

**Unit 7: The U.S. Supreme Court and Court System by Lawrence Baum, Ohio State University**

Core Essay: The U.S. Supreme Court and the Court System  
Topical essay: The U.S. Supreme Court and Its Decision-Making Process  
Problem: Original and Evolving Meaning in the US Constitution  
Problem: Decision-Making on the Supreme Court, 2014-15  
Problem: Profiles of Supreme Court Justices  
Document: The Louisiana Literacy Test  
Document: President Obama's Argument on Solitary Confinement  
Response: Are 5-4 decisions harmful to the reputation of the Supreme Court?  
Composition: Original and Evolving Meaning in the US Constitution

**Unit 8: Domestic Policy by Paul Pierson, University of California, Berkeley**

Core Essay: Domestic Policy  
Topical essay: Public Policy and the Health Care Debate  
Topical essay: American Foreign Policy and the Impact of 9/11  
Problem: Taxes and Social Welfare Benefits  
Problem: Inequality and Policy  
Problem: Student Loan Debt and Free College  
Problem: American Ideas About Foreign Aid  
Problem: National Security Strategy  
Document: The Story of Annual Deficits in the Last Two Decades  
Document: Nuclear Weapons and Their Owners  
Response: Will police reform improve race relations?  
Response: In the long run is our foreign policy in Asia more important?  
Composition: Taxes and Social Welfare Benefits