

Middle School State Standards and Benchmarks in Civics and Government

Standard 1 SS.7.C.1 : Demonstrate an understanding of the origins and purposes of government, law, and the American political system. [read more](#)

Date Adopted or Last Revised: 02/14

SS.7.C.1.1: Recognize how Enlightenment ideas including Montesquieu's view of separation of power and John Locke's theories related to natural law and how Locke's social contract influenced the Founding Fathers.

Content Complexity Rating: N/A | Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

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SS.7.C.1.2: Trace the impact that the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, and Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" had on colonists' views of government.

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SS.7.C.1.3: Describe how English policies and responses to colonial concerns led to the writing of the Declaration of Independence.

Content Complexity Rating: N/A | Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

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SS.7.C.1.4: Analyze the ideas (natural rights, role of the government) and complaints set forth in the Declaration of Independence.

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SS.7.C.1.5: Identify how the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation led to the writing of the Constitution.

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SS.7.C.1.6: Interpret the intentions of the Preamble of the Constitution.

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SS.7.C.1.7: Describe how the Constitution limits the powers of government through separation of powers and checks and balances.

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SS.7.C.1.8: Explain the viewpoints of the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists regarding the ratification of the Constitution and inclusion of a bill of rights.

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SS.7.C.1.9: Define the rule of law and recognize its influence on the development of the American legal, political, and governmental systems.

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Standard 2 SS.7.C.2 : Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system. [read more](#)

Date Adopted or Last Revised: 02/14

SS.7.C.2.1: Define the term "citizen," and identify legal means of becoming a United States citizen.

Content Complexity Rating: N/A | Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

Belongs to: [Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.](#)

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SS.7.C.2.2: Evaluate the obligations citizens have to obey laws, pay taxes, defend the nation, and serve on juries.

Content Complexity Rating: N/A | Date Adopted or Revised: 02/14

Belongs to: [Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.](#)

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SS.7.C.2.3: Experience the responsibilities of citizens at the local, state, or federal levels.

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Belongs to: [Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.](#)

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SS.7.C.2.4: Evaluate rights contained in the Bill of Rights and other amendments to the Constitution.

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Belongs to: [Evaluate the roles, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizens, and determine methods of active participation in society, government, and the political system.](#)

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SS.7.C.2.5: Distinguish how the Constitution safeguards and limits individual rights.

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SS.7.C.2.6: Simulate the trial process and the role of juries in the administration of justice.

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SS.7.C.2.7: Conduct a mock election to demonstrate the voting process and its impact on a school, community, or local level.

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SS.7.C.2.8: Identify America's current political parties, and illustrate their ideas about government.

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SS.7.C.2.9: Evaluate candidates for political office by analyzing their qualifications, experience, issue-based platforms, debates, and political ads.

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SS.7.C.2.10: Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

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[SS.7.C.2.11:](#) Analyze media and political communications (bias, symbolism, propaganda).

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[SS.7.C.2.12:](#) Develop a plan to resolve a state or local problem by researching public policy alternatives, identifying appropriate government agencies to address the issue, and determining a course of action.

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[SS.7.C.2.13:](#) Examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues.

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[SS.7.C.2.14:](#) Conduct a service project to further the public good.

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Standard 3 SS.7.C.3 : Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government. [read more](#)

Date Adopted or Last Revised: 02/14

SS.7.C.3.1: Compare different forms of government (direct democracy, representative democracy, socialism, communism, monarchy, oligarchy, autocracy).

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Belongs to: [Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.](#)

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SS.7.C.3.2: Compare parliamentary, federal, confederal, and unitary systems of government.

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Belongs to: [Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.](#)

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SS.7.C.3.3: Illustrate the structure and function (three branches of government established in Articles I, II, and III with corresponding powers) of government in the United States as established in the Constitution.

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Belongs to: [Demonstrate an understanding of the principles, functions, and organization of government.](#)

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SS.7.C.3.4: Identify the relationship and division of powers between the federal government and state governments.

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SS.7.C.3.5: Explain the Constitutional amendment process.

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SS.7.C.3.6: Evaluate Constitutional rights and their impact on individuals and society.

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SS.7.C.3.7: Analyze the impact of the 13th, 14th, 15th, 19th, 24th, and 26th amendments on participation of minority groups in the American political process.

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SS.7.C.3.8: Analyze the structure, functions, and processes of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

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SS.7.C.3.9: Illustrate the law making process at the local, state, and federal levels.

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SS.7.C.3.10: Identify sources and types (civil, criminal, constitutional, military) of law.

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SS.7.C.3.11: Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of courts at the state and federal levels.

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SS.7.C.3.12: Analyze the significance and outcomes of landmark Supreme Court cases including, but not limited to, Marbury v. Madison, Plessy v. Ferguson, Brown v. Board of Education, Gideon v. Wainwright, Miranda v. Arizona, in re Gault, Tinker v. Des Moines, Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, United States v. Nixon, and Bush v. Gore.

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SS.7.C.3.13: Compare the constitutions of the United States and Florida.

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SS.7.C.3.14: Differentiate between local, state, and federal governments' obligations and services.

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Standard 4 SS.7.C.4 : Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of United States foreign policy. read more

Date Adopted or Last Revised: 02/14

SS.7.C.4.1: Differentiate concepts related to United States domestic and foreign policy.

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Belongs to: [Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of United States foreign policy.](#)

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SS.7.C.4.2: Recognize government and citizen participation in international organizations.

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Belongs to: [Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of United States foreign policy.](#)

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SS.7.C.4.3: Describe examples of how the United States has dealt with international conflicts.

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