

Proposed Social Studies Learning Resources Approval Spring 2016

Instructional Resources

The first resource is intended to serve as a central text for AP Government and Politics course. It differs from previous approvals in that the preferred format is digital. It has not been adopted by the Virginia Department of Education. The additional resources are meant to be supplementary resource for all high school social studies courses. Per School Board Policy IIAA, staff has reviewed materials currently adopted by the Virginia Department of Education and have deemed these suggested resources to be better suited to the specific curricular goals of needs of Albemarle County Public Schools.

American Government and Politics in the Information Age, v. 2.0

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Version: 2.0 other versions

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<http://catalog.flatworldknowledge.com/bookhub/reader/27469?cid=>

American Government and Politics in the Information Age is a comprehensive introduction to the subject of American government and politics. Flat World publishing began as an open educational resource (OER), but has shifted to a paid subscription model for the full range of resources. A PDF version of the text is still available for free through OER Commons. This text is authoritative and comprehensive and suited for an advanced placement government course, and it also has the benefit of delivering the content in a digital format which is conducive to our 1-1 initiative.

Choices

<http://www.choices.edu/>

From the website- *Choices materials incorporate the latest scholarship from Brown University and beyond to draw connections between historical events and contemporary international issues. In each unit, a central activity challenges students to consider multiple viewpoints on a contested issue. Students examine the historical, cultural, and political background of the issue to prepare a coherent presentation. Follow-up discussion demands analysis, and evaluation of conflicting values, interests, and priorities. Ultimately, students are expected to formulate persuasive arguments and express their own views.*

These resources are available both in print and digital formats and offer a variety of activities and media which is consistent with our mission in social studies to develop students to be knowledgeable and efficacious citizens for the 21st century. Choices curriculum is organized in high interest units of study centered around a contemporary or historical problem. Students use the provided resources to make decisions regarding the challenging problems they are presented with.

DBQ Project

<http://www.dbqproject.com/>

***From the website-** The DBQ Project was started in 2000 to help teachers help students read with understanding, think straight, and write clearly. The Project's roots originate in our positive experience with the Document-Based Question exercise on the History AP exams. Through scaffolded materials and intensive professional development, The DBQ Project has helped democratize the DBQ experience for a wide range of students, elementary through high school.*

These resources are widely used in our high schools, middle schools, and even some elementary schools. Their units are the foundation for a couple of ACPS Performance Tasks in social studies (5th and 9th grade in particular). Their newly released digital format will only improve its accessibility so that critical reading, thinking and writing are expected of all of our students. Each unit is organized around a central question and includes a hook, contextual essay, and sources to that address the question. While not written in lesson plan format, the materials provide lots of support to teachers in facilitating the DBQ process. Additionally, the DBQ Project includes lots of scaffolds for students so that they can engage in critical reading, thinking, and writing.