

## RESOURCES FOR CIVICS EDUCATION

*Compiled by Civics Education in Schools and Community*

June, 2021

**Educating for American Democracy project (EAD):** A diverse collection of academics, historians, teachers, school administrators, and state education leaders, proposed major changes in the way civics and history are taught in US public schools. **The Roadmap is an advisory document**, intended to support a diversity of curricula, materials, lessons, and assessments and to work across a variety of state social studies standards. It will break new ground by presenting an integrated framework for what, why, and how to teach history and civics. As such, it is meant to inspire and inform the authors of state standards, curricula, textbooks, and other materials, as well as teachers themselves to rethink and reprioritize civics and American history education. [educatingforamericandemocracy.org](http://educatingforamericandemocracy.org)

**PACivics.org:** This comprehensive website is being built to include many resources from the **NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER** with a focus on Pennsylvania.

- A. **iCivics** Fantastic resource for Middle School and High school, lesson, resources, and professional development. There are incredible specific lesson plans, videos, Infographics, web quests, links to the standards, games, additional resources. They have added the option for online learning lessons. (Need to register/log in to view these resources.) [iCivics.org](http://iCivics.org)

*Specific Lessons topics include* 1) *Spectrum of State Election Laws*, 2) *Voting Matters (activity)* 3) *Campaigning It's a Process* 4) *Voting rights (history and Voting Rights today)* 5) *Immigration Nation (game that guides newcomers through the path to citizenship)* 6) *News Literacy NewsFeed Defenders and NewsFeed Defenders Extension Pack(great resource list)*, *Mini Media Literacy Library (mini lessons on each branch of government – executive orders, filibusters, gerrymandering, Judicial Activism and Restraint)*

[https://www.icivics.org/viewpdf?path=/sites/default/files/NewsFeed%20Defenders\\_Ext%20Pack\\_1.pdf](https://www.icivics.org/viewpdf?path=/sites/default/files/NewsFeed%20Defenders_Ext%20Pack_1.pdf)

- B. **C-SPAN Classroom** What is Fake news and How does It Impact our Lives.

<http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/issues/what-is-fake-news-and-how-does-it-impact-our-lives/>

- C. **NEWSEUM EDUCATION SITE** It requires registration but has incredible collection of useful materials. Again, videos, lesson plans, infographics, alignment to the standards.

<https://newseumed.org/medialiteracy>

*Specific lessons topics include* 1) *"Is It Fair?" Video, infographic( word choice, context, counter point;* 2) *"Fact Finder : Your Foolproof Guide to Media Literacy " Video, infographics activities, (Is it important, Are the creators clearly identified? Does it rely on facts? Is it objective? Is it Timely?)* 3) *E.S.C.A.P.E. Junk News*

4) Evidence: Do the Facts Hold UP? 5) Is this Story Share-Worthy? Flowchart 6) Weed Out Propaganda 7) Fake New – What’s the Big Deal? 8) Evaluating Election Ads

- D. **Google Fact Checker Explorer** Search fact check results from the web about a topic or person.

<https://toolbox.google.com/factcheck/explorer>

- E. **CIVICS RENEWAL NETWORK** **Civics Renewal Network** is an alliance of 36 nonprofit, nonpartisan organizations organized to provide free online classroom resources for civics education. It provides links to lessons and case studies and resources to other organizations for civic education. Besides the website they have a free monthly newsletter of recent best practices. “A republic if we can teach it!”

One specific example is their collection of 17 different sites on Media Literacy. Great Teacher resource with individual lesson plans from a variety of places. Some are grade 6-12, most are grades 9-12.

[https://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/resources/?fwp\\_subject=media-literacy](https://www.civicsrenewalnetwork.org/resources/?fwp_subject=media-literacy)

- F. **Interactive Media Biases Chart** Compares over 230 sites and ranks their biases.

<https://www.adfontesmedia.com/interactive-media-bias-chart/>

- G. **The Constitution in the Classroom**

<https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/in-the-classroom>

- H. **The Bill of Rights Institute** Another nonpartisan organization that has lessons and videos and resources for teaching civics and engaging students.

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/current-events>

- I. **Vote Smart** With a theme of Facts Matter, this site tracks 40,000 politicians with their biographical information, voting record, speeches, and funding. The site has a Voter Defense System option that identifies false statements.

<https://justfacts.votesmart.org/>

- J. **ANNENBERG CLASSROOM** Free resources for teaching civics here include 20 specific topics (landmark Supreme Court cases, Bill of Rights issues like freedom of assembly, media literacy to name a few) 6 media types (videos, games, books, interactive timelines, handouts, websites).

<https://annenbergclassroom.org>