

Minnesota Content Standards



The Minnesota Content Standards for High School Social Studies is divided into several learning areas. Learning Area Seven: Peoples and Cultures contains a concentration in the study of U.S. Citizenship.

In SIRS' study of the Minnesota Content Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government, addresses the expectations for U.S. Government and presents a framework for understanding America's ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen's role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Minnesota Content Standards.

<<http://clf.mn.us/>> [2002, January 28]



Minnesota Learning Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



Area 7: People and Cultures
United States Citizenship

A student shall demonstrate understanding of the foundations, rights, and responsibilities of United States citizenship including how the United States government, as established by the Constitution, embodies the principles and ideals of a democratic republic; the rights and responsibilities of United States citizens, non-citizens, and dual citizens; and the formal and informal structures within which interest groups exercise power, by:

- A. examining the foundational documents, including the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights relating to citizen rights and responsibilities;
- B. examining persisting issues involving rights, roles, and status of individuals in relation to the general welfare of society;
- C. analyzing how citizens can affect public policy; and
- D. observing, analyzing, and interacting with an actual or simulated governmental process.

- *Students can examine the U.S. Constitution from Chapter 3 and read about the Bill of Rights from Chapter 9.*
- *Chapter 14 discusses the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Topics include obtaining citizenship, dual-citizenship, naturalization and illegal immigration.*
- *Chapter 9, The Bill of Rights and Minority Rights, discusses the never-ending struggle for individual rights. Topics include, women’s suffrage, civil rights, American with Disabilities Act and age discrimination.*
- *Chapter 13 focuses on the ways the media and public opinion polls and lobbies affect public policy.*

A student shall evaluate events and actions from diverse United States and world perspectives by identifying:

- A. how race, culture, gender, and disability may influence beliefs, actions, and world view;
- B. how data and experiences may be interpreted differently; and

C. issues, topics, or concepts around which disagreement or ambiguity exists, including describing points of view concerning the issue, investigating reasons for identified points of view, investigating reasons for alternative viewpoints, and analyzing how the interpretations of an issue is affected by omitted viewpoints.

- *Chapter 9 examines how racial minorities and the disabled worked towards bringing all people into the mainstream of American life.*
- *Students will gain insight into varying positions held on crucial issues affecting all citizens from reading the related articles accompanying each chapter, particularly those chapters in Part II, Problems of Government. Topics include: environment, ethics, poverty, health care, cities, business, labor, agriculture, foreign policy and national defense.*