

WEBSITES FOR SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATORS: CIVICS/GOVERNMENT*

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* The websites in this document have been compiled by Warren Solomon, Adjunct Assistant Professor, College of Education of the University of Missouri-Columbia, formerly Social Studies Curriculum Consultant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Thanks to many people who helped me in this effort including Fred Czarra, Council of Chief State School Officers, Jerry Aschermann, Missouri Western State College, Randy Rook, Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and Angie Esser and Zac Early, eMINTS Instructional Specialists. Although the list may seem long, it is just the tip of the iceberg. A caution: It is possible that some of the web sites no longer exist or that their addresses have changed.

Teachers should not only use documents like this one as a resource, they should not forget to use the services of librarian-media specialists in their schools.

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Organizations (Civic Education)

Missouri Bar: The Missouri Bar website is not just for lawyers! It has numerous resources for teachers and the general public including readable electronic copies of its public information pamphlets dealing with consumer law, courts, family law, etc. for the general public (click on "Public") and information about resources, conferences, and services for teachers (click on "Educators"): <http://www.mobar.org/>.

American Bar Association: This ABA website provides information related to the court system for teachers, parents, and students: : <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/schoolshome.html>.

Bill of Rights Institute: See the [link to this website](#) in this section of this document.

Campaign for the Civic Mission of the Schools: The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools works with its coalition partners to bring about changes in state, local, and national policy. Its goal is to increase and improve civic learning in grades K-12 by working for policies that implement the recommendations of the *Civic Mission of Schools* report (see pp. 2-3 below for a website that links to the *Civic Mission* report): <http://www.civicmissionofschools.org/>.

Citizenship Education Clearinghouse (CECH): This program, housed at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, engages students of various grade levels in a few civic education programs (Kids Voting and the CECH-Up program, to name two): <http://www.umsl.edu/divisions/education/cechsite/>.

Center for Civic Education: Website of the Center for Civic Education, the organization which developed the National Civics Standards and has developed many other programs and resources for schools in this nation, as well as in other nations: <http://www.civiced.org/>

CIRCLE: The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, which is based in the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy and is funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts and Carnegie Corporation of New York, advocates for civic education and conducts, collects, and funds research on the civic and political participation of young Americans: <http://www.civicyouth.org/>.

Close Up Foundation: The website of the Close Up Foundation, which hosts trips to Washington, D.C., has many other programs, and produces quality publications for citizenship education: <http://www.closeup.org>

Constitutional Rights Foundation: This newly redesigned (2008) Website of the Constitutional Rights Foundation has many excellent resources for teachers including lesson plans that deal with law and legal issues in U.S. and world history. See especially the *Bill of Rights in Action* link, which may be found in the section entitled "Free Lessons": <http://www.crf-usa.org/>

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago: This website of the Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago has a number of activities social studies teachers might want to consider: <http://www.crf-usa.org/>

Street Law: Street Law has a useful website for social studies teachers (<http://www.streetlaw.com/>), which includes, among other things, links to other law-related websites and a special website focused in specific ways on its textbook *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law*: http://www.glencoe.com/sec/socialstudies/street_law/index.php.

General Civics Websites

Annenburg/CTB: This website provides access to a number of excellent video in-service programs for social studies teachers on how to teach specific topics in civics and U.S. history. To obtain access to the video programs teachers need to register with the website. Programs available are provided within the following civics-related series: The Constitution: That Delicate Balance, Democracy in America, and Making Civics Real, A Workshop for Teachers: <http://www.learner.org/resources/series72.html>, <http://www.learner.org/resources/series173.html>, and <http://www.learner.org/resources/series177.html>

Bill of Rights Institute: The Bill of Rights Institute has many free lessons and other resources for social studies teachers related to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and current events stories related to various sections of the Bill of Rights: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/default.htm>

C-SPAN Principles of Government videos: Register at this website from C-SPAN to gain access to links to video clips from past C-SPAN programs, where individuals in the clips speak on specific current and past matters related to the topic of the principles of government (“Purposes of Government,” “Philosophy and Background,” and “Key Concepts [of Government]”) as related to the U.S. and its Constitution and to other countries: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/principles/video.asp>

Federal Government: “USA.gov” is a website from the U.S. government that has resources of relevance to all teachers and citizens: <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

Council on Excellence in Government: This website has many links civics teachers will find to be of value. The council website is <http://www.excelgov.org/>. To find the links simply click on the word “Links,” which may be found on the website.

CIRCLE website: This website from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement has statistical and other information on the status of civic education in the United States: <http://www.civicyouth.org/>

“Civnet” of the Center for Civic Education: A website of the Civitas International, developed for scholars and teachers, which offers many ideas pertaining to civics in this and other nations with links to the great documents of democracy: <http://www.civnet.org/>

Google Government: Google is in process of developing this website to be a “one-stop site for searching the web sites of government agencies.” It will be designed to help researchers and students to find easily information on all government websites: <http://www.google.com/ig/usgov>

Justice Learning: Civic Education for the Real World: The focus of the website from the NPR and the New York *Times* is on civic education in the real world. It has special sections with links pertaining to women’s rights, race and education, death penalty, gun control, affirmative action, religion in schools, juvenile justice, and civil liberties in time of war. There are links to newspaper articles and to lesson plans. The site address is <http://www.justicelearning.org/>

Mr. Donn’s Civics Website: This website has links to lesson plans pertaining to many civics topics: <http://members.aol.com/MrDonnHistory/Government.html#Liberty>

New York Times: The New York Times produces lessons daily for teachers including lessons to civics: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/civics.html>

NewsHour Extra: This website from PBS provides resources and lesson plans for teachers of history and civics: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/history/>

Pew Research: This website presents findings of research polls from the Pew Research Center dealing with matters of domestic and foreign policy and issues: <http://pewresearch.org/>

PBS Kids Democracy Project: This website, which deals with how government affects us, with being President for a day, and with voting, is a great resource for elementary students and teachers: <http://pbskids.org/democracy/>

Youth Leadership Initiative: Through this website, students may participate in mock elections, a mock congress and campaign simulations, and teachers may download civics and government lesson plans: <http://www.youthleadership.net/>

Assessment of Civic Knowledge and Activity

Education Commission of the States Civics Assessment Database: The database contains questions categorized by national civics standards that have been juried by civic learning experts for their clarity and meaningfulness in relation to the competencies of civic knowledge,

skills and dispositions. Some items were simplified (often to make them useable at lower grade levels). The database also includes an instrument for assessing the civic climate in school buildings: http://www.ecs.org/qna/splash_new.asp

International Assessment: The International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) has released information on the results of a cross-national study that examined the civic knowledge, engagement, and attitudes of 14 year-old students in 28 democratic countries. <http://www.wam.umd.edu/~iea/>

National Assessment of Educational Progress: The National Assessment of Educational Progress website on civics, where one may find information on performance related to civics and all pages of released civics assessment items: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/civics/>

[Citizenship, National Symbols, and Becoming a Citizen](#)

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (Citizenship Test): This item consists of 96 sample questions typical of what is given to individuals in the naturalization process: <http://uscitizenest.com/>

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (Guide for Immigrants): “Welcome to the United States: A Guide for New Immigrants” contains information about daily life in the U.S. and basic civics information that introduces new immigrants to the system of government in the U.S. <http://www.uscis.gov/newimmigrants>

Symbols of Citizenship (State Symbols): This comprehensive state information web site provides symbols, flags, maps, constitutions, representatives, songs, birds, flowers, and trees for each state. This is a must for every fourth grade teacher. <http://www.50states.com/>

Symbols of Citizenship (Missouri Symbols): This web site from the Missouri Secretary of State provides information and fun activities related to Missouri state symbols: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/kids/>

Symbols of Citizenship (U.S. Flag)¹: This website, prepared by the Armed Forces History Collections, comes from the Smithsonian Institution: <http://www.si.edu/resource/faq/nmah/flag.htm>

Symbols of Citizenship (Liberty Bell): These websites contain information about the Liberty Bell: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/inde/liberty-bell.html>, <http://www.libertybellmuseum.com/index.html>, <http://www.ushistory.org/libertybell/index.html>.

Symbols of Citizenship (Statue of Liberty): These websites contain information about the Statue of Liberty: <http://www.nps.gov/archive/stli/prod02.htm>, <http://www.endex.com/gf/buildings/liberty/libertyfacts.htm>, http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Statue_of_Liberty.html.

[Civic Decision Making and Action](#)

Civic Action: A website entitled “The New Fighters” focused on people who have made a difference in civil rights and on how students can make a difference with ideas for a unit on the subject: <http://www.cis.yale.edu/ynhti/curriculum/units/1996/1/96.01.07.x.html>

Civic Action: A website called Teens, Crime, and the Community, developed by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, which provides ideas and avenues for getting students involved in their communities: <http://www.ncpc.org/programs/tcc/>

¹ The three “Symbols of Liberty” websites on this page were identified by Ritenour School District (St. Louis County, MO) teachers Jackie Kofsky and Barb Morris, “Symbols of Democracy: An Introduction to Icons and Ideals,” *Social Studies and the Young Learner*, **19** (1), pp. 16, P1-4..

Conflict Resolution: Website from the non-profit charitable organization Triune Arts, which identifies video programs for sale that deal with conflict resolution: <http://www.triune.ca/>

Issue Analysis: “Choices for the 21st Century” at Brown University develops new materials to assist teachers in helping high students to analyze current and past public policy issues. <http://www.choices.edu/>.

National Security Archives: Website from George Washington University that focuses on national security issues, providing declassified items related to U.S. history and current events: <http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/>.

Religion and Ethics: PBS has a weekly program called “Religion and Ethics Weekly.” This website presents religious/ethical issues that come up weekly and daily and also provides lesson plans for teachers to consider using. The website is as follows: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/index.html>

Civic Values, Character Education, Issue Analysis and Advocacy, Elections and Voting, and Civic Participation

Character Education: The Cooperating School Districts of Metropolitan St. Louis has a character education program called Character Plus. Visit its website and see within it the links to resources it provides: <http://www.characterplus.org/>

Character Education: Character Education Partnership’s website: <http://www.charactered.net/>. Its eleven principles of Character Education may be found at this website: <http://www.character.org/principles/>.

Character Education: The Character Education and Civic Engagement Technical Assistance Center (CETAC), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), has developed this website pertaining to Character Education and Civic Engagement grants and resources: <http://www.cetac.org>.

Elections and Voting (CongressLink): CongressLink presents a simulation for high school teachers, developed by Jeffrey L. Bernstein, Department of Political Science, Eastern Michigan University, pertaining to teaching about elections: http://www.congresslink.org/print_lp_electionsim_intro.htm

Elections and Voting (C-SPAN): C-SPAN has a website, which includes lesson plans and other valuable information that is focused on the past election and elections to come: <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/govt/campaigns.asp>

Elections and Voting (C-SPAN in the Classroom on Conventions): This website is a valuable source on conventions and current issues: <http://www.c-span.org/classroom/govt/conventions.asp>

Elections and Voting (Library of Congress): This website was produced by the Library of Congress to help students learn about the history of elections pertaining to candidates, voters, the party system, the election process, and issues: <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/election/home.html>

Elections and Voting (Kids Voting USA Website): This website has sample activities and lessons for teaching about elections and citizenship education along with useful links: <http://www.kidsvotingusa.org/>.

Elections and Voting (Kids Voting Missouri Website): This website provides information about Kids Voting Missouri and about how districts may participate in it. Participating districts have access to Kids Voting activities and lesson plans: <http://www.kidsvotingmissouri.org/>

Elections and Voting (National Student-Parent Mock Election): This is the website of an organization that offers a system for involving students and their parents in a nation-wide mock election. Teachers may want to visit the website to find lesson plans related to voting, elections, and civic responsibility: <http://www.nationalmockelection.org/>

Elections and Voting (Project Vote Smart): This website, sponsored by the non-profit organization Project Vote Smart, is a handy resource for finding out about incumbents and candidates for office at national and state levels: <http://www.vote-smart.org/index.htm>.

Elections and Voting (New York Times): This website from the New York *Times* focuses on state and national elections and provides links to current issues: <http://capwiz.com/nyt/election/#map>

Elections and Voting (Truman Library): This website, focused on the topic of Presidential Elections and their history, called “Every Four Years: Electing a President,” comes from the Truman Presidential Library: <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/museum/4years/index.htm>

Elections and Voting (C-SPAN): This website is an excellent site for finding information related to the Presidential Election of 2008: <http://www.campaignnetwork.org/>.

Issue Analysis Lessons: This website from Educators for Social Responsibility in New York City, prevents all sorts of items useful pertaining to contemporary issues: <http://www.teachablemoment.org/>.

Issue Advocacy: The website of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), an organization committed to the defense of the Bill of Rights and other civil rights of Americans: <http://www.aclu.org>. There are also local Missouri American Civil Liberties Union websites: <http://www.aclu-em.org/>, <http://www.aclu-em.org/takeaction/midmissourichapter>, and <http://www.aclukswmo.org/>.

Issue Advocacy: The website of the American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ), an organization often opposed to the ACLU, supportive of involving religion more in American public life: <http://www.aclj.org/>.

Issue Advocacy. This website from the Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis focuses on legislation that has the potential of affecting public education in Missouri: <http://capwiz.com/csd/home/>.

Issue Advocacy & Voting: Website of the League of Women Voters: <http://www.lwv.org/>.

Issue Exploration (C-SPAN): C-SPAN offers many resources for teachers related to current issues: <http://www.c-span.org/>.

Issue Exploration (Justice Learning): This civics education from the New York Times and NPR is designed for high school students and teachers to explore current issues using audios of programming from NPR: <http://www.justicelearning.org/>.

Issue Exploration (National Issues Forum): “National Issues Forums bring people together to talk about important issues. They range from small study circles held in peoples’ homes to large community gatherings modeled on New England town meetings. Each forum focuses on a specific issue such as illegal drugs, Social Security, or juvenile crime. The forums help people of diverse views find common ground for action on issues that concern them deeply. NIF forums are structured deliberative discussions, led by trained moderators. Using nonpartisan issue books, participants weigh possible ways to address a problem. They analyze each approach and the arguments for and against.” Here is the website for National Issues Forum, where one may find a variety of issues discussed and download teacher’s guides: <http://www.nifi.org/forums/index.aspx>

Issue Exploration (NPR): National Public Radio has a podcast directory, many podcasts of which deal with public policy issues: http://www.npr.org/rss/podcast/podcast_directory.php.

Teaching Specific Values (Peace): The website of the United States Institute of Peace, which sponsors an annual essay contest dealing with some issue exploring a peace-related issue. From a social studies assessment perspective, the peace essay is a nice model for an authentic assessment accompanied by a scoring guide: <http://www.usip.org/ed.html>

Teaching Specific Values (Tolerance): A website with links from UNESCO with good information for teachers pertaining to the teaching of tolerance:
<http://www.learningtogive.org/papers/index.asp?bpid=233>

Constitution, including the First Amendment, and Other Civic Documents

American Bookseller's Foundation for Free Expression: This website, "the bookseller's voice in the fight against censorship," is very much free speech: <http://www.abffe.org/>.

American Jewish Committee: This AJC website presents links to documents consistent with its position "that the First Amendment's twin guarantees of the free exercise of religion and the separation of church and state work together to ensure that Americans of all faiths and of no faith can live as their consciences dictate" and that "respecting these constitutional mandates is also the surest way of avoiding division in our pluralistic society":
http://www.ajc.org/site/c.jiTI2PHKoG/b.836823/k.76DA/ChurchState_Relations.htm.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State: Americans United is an advocacy group that takes a firm position in favor of separation of church and state:
<http://www.au.org/site/PageServer>.

Bill of Rights Institute: The Bill of Rights Institute has a website focused on the Bill of Rights, taking both an historical and a contemporary perspective: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/>. The website also includes many free lessons on such topics as the Federalist Papers, civic virtue, and the founders of this nation. Teachers may subscribe to free newsletters from the Institute. The Bill of Rights Institute has also posted special teaching materials related to Bill of Rights Day, which may be found at this website: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/BoRDay/> and has a special website for students entitled "You Have That Right," which may be found at this website: <http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/dnn/>.

Constitution Day Resources: The Bill of Rights Institute provides this website pertaining to Constitution Day:
<http://www.billofrightsinstitute.org/Instructional/Resources/ConstitutionDay/index.htm>

Constitution Day Resources: The Constitutional Rights Foundation provides this website pertaining to Constitution Day: http://www.crf-usa.org/constitution_day/constitution_day_home.htm#online.

The Constitution Center: The website of the Constitution Center, a new museum in Philadelphia, which offers many ideas helpful for teaching about the U.S. Constitution with links to the document itself, to various Freedom Documents, to a "Kids Corner," to teacher resources, and to many other "goodies": <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>.

Constitution: This publication from the Department of State website explains the U.S. Constitution with some illustrations: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/constitution/>

Constitution and Constitution Day: The U.S. Courts has a website with ideas for teaching about the Constitution and for Constitution Day:
<http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/resources/constitutionday.html>

Constitution and Constitution Day: The U.S. Archives has a special "Teaching with Documents" website to assist teachers as they plan for teaching about the Constitution and plan for Constitution Day: <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/constitution-day/>

Constitution and Constitution Day: The National Endowment for the Humanities has a website to assist teachers in teaching about the U.S. Constitution and for planning for Constitution Day:
http://edsitement.neh.gov/ConstitutionDay/constitution_index2.html

Constitution and Constitution Day: Read President Truman's address at the Library of Congress to commemorate Constitution Day in 1951:

<http://trumanlibrary.org/publicpapers/viewpapers.php?pid=441>

Constitution for Kids: Cathy Travis, author of *Constitution Translated for Kids*, offers a teacher's guide for her book as a classroom resource for understanding the Constitution, which may be accessed from this website: <http://www.constitutiontranslatedforkids.com/>. While made to accompany her book, the teacher's guide has ideas in it also useful for teachers who do not have the book. At the end of the teacher's guide is a compilation of some good free online resources teachers can use in the classroom. To gain access to the teacher's guide, click on this website:

<http://www.connectforkids.org/node/4521>

Constitution Video Clips from C-SPAN: This website provides links to video clips from past C-SPAN programs pertaining to current issues related to the U.S. Constitution, which may be accessed from this website: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>.

Education World: A website from Education World called America's Freedom Documents with lesson plan ideas: http://www.education-world.com/a_lesson/lesson190.shtml

FindLaw: This website is an excellent resource for finding information about court cases pertaining to specific sections of the U.S. Constitution: <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/constitution/>

First Amendment (American Bar Association): Website on religion, law, and the First Amendment from the American Bar Association Division for Public Education, which has lots of good links: <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/youth/home.html>.

First Amendment (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, ASCD): ASCD has a website containing an interactive quiz for teachers on the First Amendment as applied to the school context: <http://www.firstamendmentschools.org/>.

First Amendment (Freedom Forum First Amendment Center): <http://www.freedomforum.org/>.

See also these Freedom Forum sites, which deal with First Amendment issues, including religion in the schools: http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/rel_liberty/index.aspx and <http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/about.aspx?id=6276>.

First Amendment (National Coalition against Censorship): <http://www.ncac.org>

First Amendment (Religion in Schools): The Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish organization, has a webpage, which presents its position with regard to religion in the schools, including school prayer and holiday celebrations. Its positions relate to the First Amendment: http://www.adl.org/issue_religious_freedom/separation_cs_primer.asp

First Amendment (Religion/Prayer in Schools): This brochure on prayer in public schools was produced by Americans United for Separation of Church and State: http://www.au.org/site/PageServer?pagename=resources_brochure_schoolprayer&JServSessionIdr006=8tsj6e50w1.app5b.

First Amendment (Bible in Schools): The National Council on Bible Curriculum in Public Schools is advocating that the Bible be emphasized in public schools and offers a Bible course curriculum. Endorsements tend to come from conservative spokespeople and organizations. Whether the approach is consistent with interpretations of the Constitution and is historically accurate needs to be scrutinized. The organization's website is <http://www.bibleinschools.net/sdm.asp>

First Amendment: (First Amendment Rights in World War II Historical Perspective): The civics portion of this Teachers' Guide, designed to accompany the PBS American Experience television program *The Man behind Hitler*, explores the topic of government propaganda and censorship: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/goebbels/tguide/index.html>

First Amendment (Teach the First Amendment): Teach the First Amendment advocates for teaching the First Amendment and offers resources helpful in doing so: <http://www.teachfirstamendment.org/>.

Public Agenda: The Public Agenda has conducted a national survey of public attitudes on the Constitution for the National Constitution Center. The survey was funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation. <http://www.publicagenda.org/specials/constitution/constitution.htm>

Religion and Public Education Resource Center: RPERC provides general information about the ethical, legal, and educational issues that arise in connection with the topic of religion and public education. The work of the RPERC is based on the conviction that the academic study of the world's religions in public elementary and secondary schools makes an indispensable contribution to historical and cultural literacy and should be an integral part of education for citizenship in a pluralistic democracy. This Chico, CA Center is non-partisan and serves the needs of schools throughout the United States: <http://www.csuchico.edu/rs/rperc/index.html>.

Religious Freedom Document (The Flushing Remonstrance): The first document defending religious freedom in the colonies was the Flushing Remonstrance, written in 1657 to protest an edict of Peter Stuyvesant, then Governor of New Amsterdam, which forbade anyone in that colony from entertaining a Quaker or allowing a Quaker meeting to be held in his house under penalty of a fifty pound fine. Its text and the history of Quakers in the United States may be found in this website of the Flushing Meeting House: <http://www.nyym.org/flushing/remons.html>

ThinkQuest: Website, easy to navigate and well researched, created by students for students on the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights: <http://library.thinkquest.org/11572/index.html>

Government in Missouri & the U.S. and Branches of Government

Missouri Government: A Brief Look: Using this official website was designed for young students by the Missouri Secretary of State's Office, one can find information on how Missouri government works: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/kids/>

Missouri Government: This official website of Missouri Government provides links to Missouri's branches of government, state agencies, and many more useful sources: <http://www.mo.gov/>

Missouri Government: How a bill becomes a law <http://www.senate.mo.gov/bill-law.htm>, <http://www.senate.mo.gov/04info/bill-law.htm>, http://www.jlsl.org/public%20issues/pic_bill_to_law.htm, and <http://www.house.mo.gov/info/habbl.pdf>.

Missouri Secretary of State's Office: This website of the Missouri Secretary of State includes links to state rules, to the State Archives, and to elections: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/>

National Constitution Center: The National Constitution Center is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of and appreciation for the Constitution, its history and contemporary relevance. It has a very good website for social studies teachers: <http://www.constitutioncenter.org/>.

Pebble Publishing Company: Pebble Publishing Company's Missouri Gold website lists many Missouri government resources that it offers for sale to school districts: http://www.pebblepublishing.com/missouri_government_and_constitution_social_studies_textbook_curriculum_high_school_middle.htm.

State Governments: The Stateline.org website presents news about state governments and state government policy issues from all over the U.S.: <http://www.stateline.org/live/ViewPage.action>.

U.S. Government: "Ben's Guide to U.S. Government" is an excellent website for elementary students: <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/> (good for elementary grades) and

U.S. Government: GovSpot is an excellent website for elementary students and older students, as well as teachers: <http://www.govspot.com>

U.S. Government (USA.gov): This federal Government Website may be used as a resource to find out about all branches and levels of government: <http://www.firstgov.gov/>

U.S. Government (Ideas for High School Courses from a Teacher): This website with lessons for U.S. government courses was developed by George Cassutto, social studies teacher from Hagerstown High School in Maryland: <http://www.cyberlearning-world.com/lessons/usg.htm>

Executive Branch: This is the website of the White House: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/>. The White House also provides a special website for kids: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/>

Executive Branch: This U.S. Government website, called “Fedstats,” links to web pages from U.S. Government agencies: <http://www.fedstats.gov/>

Executive Branch: The Library of Congress has a website that provides an entry to the Executive Branch of Government and to the many government agencies within that branch: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/fedgov.html>.

Executive Branch (Smithsonian’s “The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden): The Smithsonian Institution developed an exhibit entitled “The American Presidency: A Glorious Burden.” Information about the presidency developed for the Internet to accompany the exhibit may be found at these websites: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/presidency/home.html> (Smithsonian) and <http://www.trumanlibrary.org/museum/burden/index.html> (Truman Library).

U.S. State Department: This State Department website has links to all sorts of topics related to U.S. government, history, and foreign policy: <http://www.state.gov/youthandeducation/> and <http://future.state.gov/educators/>

Legislative Branch: The League of Women Voters has a high school simulation for an e-Congress, which is available at its Youth Leadership Initiative website. Here is what the League says about the simulation: “Throughout the game, students play the role of a U.S. Representative and their job is to pass legislation. To be successful, they must research contemporary issues, draft original legislation, debate its merits during committee sessions and work to move their bill to the House Floor. In contrast to traditional mock congresses, students use innovative technology throughout the simulation to interact with their legislators and to connect with their peers around the country.” The site may be found at this address: <http://www.youthleadership.net/>.

Legislative Branch: The Library of Congress has a website devoted to the legislative branch of U.S. government: <http://thomas.loc.gov/home/legbranch/legbranch.html>.

Legislative Branch: The “Thomas Website,” developed for teachers and students by the Library of Congress, provides information on how to find laws and keep informed about legislation: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/features/thomas/index.html>

Legislative Branch (House of Representatives): Following is the official House of Representatives website: <http://www.house.gov/>. The website also has a special page on how laws are made: http://www.house.gov/house/Tying_it_all.html.

Legislative Branch (Senate): Following is the official U.S. Senate website: <http://www.senate.gov/>.

Legislative Branch: Website called CongressLink, which has lesson plans and authentic problem-solving student activities and other activities related to lawmaking, checks and balances, and more: <http://www.congresslink.org/>.

Judicial Branch: The following is the official website of the judicial branch of government: <http://www.uscourts.gov/>. The judiciary also provides a website called “Understanding the Federal Courts” <http://www.uscourts.gov/understand02/>.

Judicial Branch: The Law Library of Congress has a website called “Guide to Law Online”: <http://www.loc.gov/law/guide/>.

Judicial Branch: The website of the United States Supreme Court: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/index.html>

Judicial Branch: This user-friendly website from Street Law focuses on landmark Supreme Court cases and on important legal concepts with good documents and ideas for lessons: <http://www.landmarkcases.org/index.html>.

Judicial Branch: The U.S. Secretary of State's Office has a publication called Outline of the U.S. legal system: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/legalotln/>

Judicial Branch: A website entitled "Courts to Classes," designed by the Federal judiciary as a resource for teachers and students: <http://www.uscourts.gov/outreach/index.html>

Judicial Branch (Supreme Court): This website, designed for teachers, was developed as a companion to the four-part PBS television series *The Supreme Court*, which aired January 31 and February 7, 2007: <http://www.historyofsupremecourt.org/welcome.htm>.

Judicial Branch (Supreme Court–Landmark Cases): This website, produced by Street Law and the Supreme Court Historical Society, focuses on landmark cases of the Supreme Court with texts of the cases and practical teaching suggestions: <http://www.landmarkcases.org/>.

Judicial Branch (Supreme Court–Upcoming Cases): This website from the American Bar Association provides information on upcoming Supreme Court cases: <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/preview/home.html>

Judicial Branch: This website was designed to accompany the PBS Nova broadcast of the program *Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial*, which features a trial involving the First Amendment that took place in Dover, PA, on the subject of whether public school science teachers may be required to teach intelligent design in conjunction with Darwinian theory in science classes. The program may be found on this website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/id/>.

Government & Civics in Other Nations

Flags: A website on the flags of the world: <http://www.flags.net/indexu.htm>

China: This PBS documentary, entitled "China from the Inside," focuses on political power, women, nature, and freedom and justice: <http://www.pbs.org/kqed/chinainside/about.html>.

Constitutions: Websites that may be used to find the current constitutions of many nations: <http://www.chanrobles.com/worldconstitutions.htm>.

International

The Choices Program: According to the Choices Program, "The Choices Program was established in 1988 as a national education program that seeks to engage students at the secondary level in consideration of international issues and contribute to a renewal of civic engagement among young people in the United States": <http://www.choices.edu/index.cfm>.

Freedom House: Freedom House describes itself as "a non-profit, nonpartisan organization...[that is] a clear voice for democracy and freedom around the world. Through a vast array of international programs and publications, Freedom House is working to advance the remarkable worldwide expansion of political and economic freedom." The website presents links to news stories related to the state of freedom in different nations and throughout the world. The website has links to a number of similar websites. Its address is as follows: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=1>.

Global Connections: This website—Global Connections: Putting World Events in Context—provides background information designed to help educators and others understand events occurring in the Middle East: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/globalconnections/>

Human Rights: This website dealing with human rights is from Human Rights Watch: <http://www.hrw.org>. See especially the annual reports of Human Rights Watch. The 2008 report may be found at this website: <http://hrw.org/englishwr2k8/docs/2008/01/31/usint17940.htm>.

Human Rights: This website from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for teachers (with lesson plans) and students focuses on human rights in the U.S. and international communities: <http://www.unl.edu/HumanR/teach/>

United Nations Association of the United States of America: UNA-USA has an online newsletter with information about world issues. <http://www.unausa.org/>.

United Nations: Visit the official website of the UN: <http://www.un.org/>

Law

American Legal History Documents: Yale Law School's Avalon Project has the following website pertaining to documents of American legal history from 1492 to the present: <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/chrono.htm#20>

Famous Trials: This website is maintained by professor of law Doug Linder of the UMKC law school: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/ftrials.htm>

Digital History: This website from Digital History provides user-friendly access to landmark Supreme Court decisions: http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/supreme_court/supreme_court.cfm.

FindLaw: A website entitled FindLaw, which allows one to navigate to all sorts of law-related topics, including the law in the states (see Missouri), the United States, other nations; proposed legislation; Supreme Court decisions; a variety of topics, such as family law, business law, immigration law; etc., etc.: <http://www.findlaw.com/>

Law Day Ideas from the ABA: This website provides ideas on how to celebrate Law Day, which takes place annually on May 1: <http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/2007/home.shtml>. The website has lesson plans and many other good features, which may be used at any time of year. For example, there are quizzes on the website (<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/quizzes/home.html>).

Missouri Bar Pamphlets: The Missouri Bar has produced public information brochures, which may be downloaded free, many of which may be used as a resource for social studies classes. See this website: <http://www.mobar.org/1e3d080c-2e73-4e43-8f64-2d0d7a5196b5.aspx>

News and Current Events

BBC Online: The British Broadcasting Corporation World Service provides information on many global issues. Take a look at the section called "Learning English" for an analysis of words in the news: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.shtml>.

CNN Student News: This website from CNN entitled "Education with Student News" deals with news about education and news for students and provides many useful links for teachers and students: <http://fyi.cnn.com/fyi/>

C-SPAN in the Classroom: This website is a valuable source focused on current issues: <http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/>

Environmental Issues in the News: This website, Dot.Earth of New York Times reporter Andrew C. Revkin features blogs related to environmental issues: <http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com/>

FRONTLINE: PBS Frontline explores many issues of relevance to citizens. Go to this website to find issues investigated on Frontline broadcasts, where teachers may find program transcripts, online programs, lesson plans and other teaching materials and to subscribe to the FRONTLINE monthly bulletin for teachers: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/>.

FRONTLINE (News War): This website accompanies the 2007 FRONTLINE four-hour special that traces the recent history of American journalism from the Nixon administration's attacks on the media to the post-Watergate popularity of the press to new obstacles presented by the war on terror to changing economics in the media business and the Internet: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/>

Google News: Google has a news search engine that may be used for current events:
<http://news.google.com/>.

Journalism: The Poynter Institute is a school for journalists, future journalists, and teachers of journalism. For teachers and students, this site offers rich background and research information for reports. <http://www.poynter.org/>

Newspapers of U.S. Cities: The *Real News* website has links to city newspapers from all over the United States: http://www.realcitiesnetwork.com/site_list/index.html.

Missouri News: The Secretary of State's Office has a website designed to help people keep up with state government news: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/library/reference/KeepingUpOnline/>

Missouri Press: This website links to Missouri newspapers online:
<http://www.mopress.com/livepages/268.shtml>

Missouri Newspapers in Education: This is the website of Newspapers in Education in Missouri:
<http://www.mopress.com/livepages/62.shtml>

New York Times: The New York Times produces lessons daily for teachers including lessons to current events: <http://www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/lessons/currentevents.html>

New York Times Video: This website may be used to access New York Times videos dealing with current events and issues: <http://video.on.nytimes.com>.

Newspapers in Education: "NIEonline.com" provides online lesson plans and other innovative materials for use on NIE websites to provide newspaper-oriented resources to teachers through the Internet: <http://nieonline.com/>.

NPR: This website presents lots of information on current issues with depth and objectivity:
<http://www.npr.org/topics/topic.php?topicId=12>

Religion and Ethics in the News: PBS has a weekly program called "Religion and Ethics Weekly." This website presents religious/ethical issues that come up weekly and daily and also provides lesson plans for teachers to consider using. The website is as follows:
<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/index.html>

Religious Issues in the News: Public Radio International has a radio program entitled "Speaking of Faith," which is hosted by Krista Tripplett. The program, which explores religious issues of past and present, has the following website: <http://speakingoffaith.publicradio.org/>.

Science Issue in the News (Teaching of Evolution): This website from the National Science Teachers Association deals with the issue of teaching evolution in science classes:
<http://www.nsta.org/evresources>. For other positions on science education issues by NSTA, which might be good for discussion in social studies classrooms, see this website:
<http://www.nsta.org/position>.

Science Issue in the News (Teaching of Evolution): The PBS Nova program entitled "Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial," focuses on the 2005 Dover, PA, trial related to whether "intelligent design" may be taught along with evolution as a regular part of the district's science curriculum:
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/id/?campaign=pbshomefeatures_3_novabrjudgmentday_2007-11-14.

USA Today: This website from USA Today provides daily news and ideas for lesson plans for teachers and students: <http://www.usatoday.com/educate/home.htm>.

Human Rights and Peace Education

Atrium Society: Website has teaching and resource ideas for teaching about peace:
<http://www.atriumsoc.org>.

Education for Social Responsibility: Site includes ideas for peaceful resolution of disputes, confronting prejudice, and resources, including lessons: <http://www.esrnational.org/>.

Human Rights Here and Now: Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: This website has a history of human rights education accompanied by ideas and resources for teaching in this domain: <http://www.hrlibrary.ngo.ru/edumat/hreduseries/hereandnow/Part-1/default.htm>.

United States Institute for Peace: Website has articles on global peace issues and ideas for teachers, including one or more teachers' guides, which may be downloaded: <http://www.usip.org/et.html>.

Peace Corps Paul D. Coverdell World Wise Schools: Has lots of good information for global education, including links to other cultures and lesson plans: <http://www.peacecorps.gov/wws/index.html>.

[Teaching Elections and Media Literacy](#)

Elections 2008 from C-SPAN: See this website to find links to C-SPAN's educational resources for teachers related to the 2008 election: http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Campaign2008_Resources.aspx.

Elections 2008 from Education Week: See this website to find a blog on education-related issues and the 2008 election at state and national levels: <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/>.

Elections 2008 from the Constitutional Rights Foundation: "Election Central" is an online resource with lesson plans and links designed to help teachers and students explore the electoral process past and present in the United States and around the world: http://www.crf-usa.org/election_central/election_central.htm. CRF has another website, "Declare Yourself," with excellent information relevant to the 2008 election: <http://www.declareyourself.com/index.php>.

Election Programs for Schools (Project Vote Smart): Learn about Project Vote Smart, which provides lots of information about candidates for office: <http://votesmart.org/>

Election Programs for Schools (National Student-Parent Mock Election): This is the website of an organization that offers a system for involving students and their parents in a nation-wide mock election. Teachers may want to visit the website to find lesson plans related to voting, elections, and civic responsibility: <http://www.nationalmockelection.org/>

Elections (Campaign Commercials): This website, "The Living Room Candidate," focuses on the topic of campaign commercials from 1952 to the present providing also access to lesson plans: <http://livingroomcandidate.movingimage.us/index.php>

Election Lessons (CyberBee): This website provides election-related lessons for both elementary and secondary grades: <http://www.cyberbee.com/election/election.html>

Elections (Campaign Finance Issues): The "Open Secrets" website focuses on the issue of campaign finance in U.S. elections: <http://www.opensecrets.org/presidential/index.asp>

Elections and Voting (Education Week, 2008): This website has links to articles about the educational positions of presidential candidates: <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/campaign-k-12/>

Elections (New York Times Election Guide 2008): The New York Times has an election guide available at this website: <http://politics.nytimes.com/election-guide/2008/index.html>

Elections (Candidate Websites): Social studies teachers will want to find and use official websites of candidates for office as a resource for their students. We do not list them here because the various candidates change often.

Elections (Presidential Election 2004 Bush Website of the New York Times): Find lots of information and articles about President Bush, including his positions, which are relevant to the election: <http://www.nytimes.com/top/news/washington/campaign2004/candidates/georgewbush/index.html?inline=nyt-per-pol>

Elections (Presidential Election 2004 Kerry Website of the New York Times): Find lots of information and articles about Senator Kerry, including his positions, which are relevant to the election:
<http://www.nytimes.com/top/news/washington/campaign2004/candidates/johnfkerry/index.html?inline=nyt-per-pol>

Media Literacy (Political Campaigns): The following website, operated by the MU Communications Department, provides lots of information related political campaigns and to analysis of them:
<http://presidentialcampaign2004.coas.missouri.edu/>

Media Literacy (Elections): This website focuses on the role of the media in elections:
http://www.frankwbaker.com/media_politics.htm.

Media Literacy (Interpreting Editorial Cartoons): The Dirksen Center has developed a website useful in learning how to interpret cartoons using cartoons of Senate Minority Leader Everett Dirksen (1959-1969) as the subject matter: <http://www.congresslink.org/cartoons/index.htm>

Media Literacy (Current State of the Media): This website accompanies the 2007 FRONTLINE four-hour special entitled "Media Wars," which traces the recent history of American journalism from the Nixon administration's attacks on the media to the post-Watergate popularity of the press to new obstacles presented by the war on terror to changing economics in the media business and the Internet: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/newswar/>

Media Literacy (Newseum): The Newseum, which is near the Mall in Washington, D.C., is a museum focused on the news media, with daily front pages of newspapers from all over the world and features related to the history of news: <http://www.newseum.org/>.

Media Literacy (Using a Source with Obvious Errors): Many students trust anything they read on the Internet. This website is one that looks like it is an authentic one, but it is really filled with errors so obvious that it should cause students themselves to become skeptics. Teachers should go to the link in the site called "About this Site" to find out how the authors of the site intended for it to be used. The site address is <http://www.allaboutexplorers.com/explorers/>.

Media Literacy: The following website communicates well information to teachers about how to help students use the Internet critically. The website uses as an example the case of a student who happened—before he learned better—to trust the website of a Holocaust denier. The site address is <http://novemberlearning.com/images/stories/Documents/Articles/Teaching%20Zack%20to%20Think.pdf>.

Media Literacy (Evaluating Websites): The following quality websites were identified for the 2008 The Missouri Bar "Digital Citizenship" Conference by eMINTS Instructional Specialists Angie Esser and Zac Early: <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/Evaluate.html>; <http://www.fno.org/jun97/eval.html>; <http://www.library.cornell.edu/olinuris/ref/webcrit.html>, <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/schrockguide/eval.html>, and <http://www.quick.org.uk/menu.htm>.

New York Times Politics Navigator: The New York Times provides an extensive listing of websites useful in studying political issues and political organizations in the U.S.:
http://www.nytimes.com/ref/politics/POLI_NAVI.html

[Washington: Programs for Students and Teachers to Visit and Learn about the Capital City](#)

Close-Up Foundation: <http://www.closeup.org/>

Congress in the Classroom:
http://www.dirksencenter.org/print_programs_CongressClassroom.htm

Presidential Classroom Program: <http://www.presidentialclassroom.org/>

Teaching Civics

An excellent NPR series: NPR has a series entitled Citizen Student, which addresses issues of teaching civic concepts, values, and issues to students. The programs deal with teaching about voting, about the First Amendment, civic lessons beyond the classroom, and teaching patriotism in a time of war. To access the series, go to the first program in the series. That program has links to other programs and to excellent, relevant websites. The series may be accessed from this website: http://www.npr.org/programs/morning/features/civics/young_vote.html