

Civics Education – Adult Ed Resources

A Beeson, 7/2023

Sections:

General Civics

Constitution/Bill of Rights

Executive Branch

Judicial

Legislature

Texas Civics

Texas Standards

General Civics

Center for Civic Education. This organization partners with state civics, government and law programs sponsored by state bar associations and, foundations, colleges/universities to promote teaching/learning about the Constitution and Bill of Rights. I would use this for a good review of K-12 Civics standards, to give yourself a solid outline of what to cover. Here's a link to the 9-12 content standards: <https://www.civiced.org/standards?page=912erica>

Civics Education: Annotated Instructional Resources and References.

<https://lincs.ed.gov/sites/default/files/CivicsEd-AnnoInstrucResRef-508.pdf>. Links and explanations for the following resources (mostly heavy on EL Civics)

- Constitutional Rights Foundation (2019)
- Generation Citizen (2015)
- NY City Office of Immigrant Affairs
- Virginia Adult Learning Resource Center. (2016) Civics It Up! Curriculum

Civic Responsibilities: check American Bar Assoc.,

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/we-the-people/civic-duties-civil-virtues/ Civic Duties, Civic Virtues and the Barriers to Effective Citizenship

Educating for American Democracy (EAD). 2021. "Educating for American Democracy" Excellence in History and Civics for All Learners." iCivics, March 2, 2023,

www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org Rather than laying out standards, this work is more of a roadmap for framework for discussion of civics learning. Although it is K-12 focused, the framework is helpful. The work states, "Taken together, the EAD Roadmap and EAD Pedagogy Companion offers seven content themes, six pedagogical principles, and five 'design challenges.'" Helpful for identifying your own framework for your civics program. Check out their references as well!

<https://www.educatingforamericandemocracy.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Educating-for-American-Democracy-Report-Excellence-in-History-and-Civics-for-All-Learners.pdf>

Guardian of Democracy: The Civic Mission of Schools, 2011. Retrieved from Carnegie Corporation of New York, <https://www.carnegie.org/publications/guardian-of-democracy-the-civic-mission-of-schools/> This research-based report, listing six proven practices used when teaching civics.

iCivics, <https://www.icivics.org/> Free resource, for remote and in-person learning. Founded by Sandra Day O'Connor. May have some good lessons, is K-12 focused. Includes lesson plans, games, other resources.

Teaching Skills that Matter Civics Education: <https://lincs.ed.gov/state-resources/federal-initiatives/teaching-skills-matter-adult-education/civics-education> This LINCS (Literacy Information and Communication System) program includes a brief, best practices, lesson plans on 1st Amendment, on MLK, and Flint Water Crisis, various project-based learning, integrated and contextualized learning. This includes a long list of resources you can print (PDF, can also download all at one time, nice!).

Three Branches of the U.S. Federal Government. Excellent description here, with links into each of the branches: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/>

We're the WE in "We the People", League of Women Voters of Delaware (LWVDE), a quick video Civics course on government for those who never had one, and a brush-up for those who have taken a civics course but need to be reminded what they learned. Look at the seven segments on the Federal Constitution (additional videos focus just on Delaware).

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiaEJ_2n3fmqJwi9MnvSLcg

Constitution/Bill of Rights

Bill of Rights Institute, 2021. <https://billofrightsinstitute.org/> Download a copy of the Bill of Rights, and educational resources (lesson plans) for most of the rights. Find primary sources here, including Bill of Rights, Common Sense, various Federalist Papers, Declaration of Independence.

The Constitution of the United States: A Transcript. National Archives. <https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/constitution-transcript>

Executive Branch

How to Become President of the USA. Published by usa.gov (an official website of the United States Government), breaks down the presidential election process, including constitutional requirements, primaries and caucuses, conventions, general elections, and the Electoral College. <https://www.usa.gov/election#item-213546>

The Executive Branch. From the President, to the Vice President, to the Cabinet, learn more about the Executive Branch of the government of the United States. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/our-government/the-executive-branch/>

Judicial

National Center for State Courts, 2021. Civics Education Resource Guide.

<https://www.ncsc.org/education-and-careers/civics-education/resource-guide> This is a list of Civics Education Programs offered nationally as well as state organizations. Lots of listings, some are iffy, not a lot of links (further search to find actual websites).

The Policy Circle, Civic Engagement. I really like this link, good intro, how civic engagement works, various videos and additional links. Good ideas here on getting adults engaged in Civics.

<https://www.thepolicycircle.org/brief/whats-whys-civic-engagement/>

Landmark Supreme Court Cases. There are a variety of organizations that offer various resources. The Bill of Rights Institute resources are organized by topic (Federalism, Freedom of Speech, etc.) and includes summaries of Supreme Court cases, and offers educator resources for each.

<https://billofrightsinstitute.org/landmark-cases>

Legislature

Congress of the United States. From this official site for U.S. federal legislation information, you can search bills, public laws, U.S. Codes, track activity, and much more. Here you can locate all members of Congress. In addition, there are videos on the legislative process, and under Resources, there are Teacher Lesson Plans. <https://www.congress.gov/>

How a Bill Becomes a Law, Schoolhouse Rock. Who doesn't love this video?!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FBpdxEMeIR0>

Texas Civics

Government of Texas. Weirdly enough, it was difficult finding a simply explanation of Texas government and how it works, so I would start here, mostly because it includes some visuals, links to vocabulary, and you can drill-down to find information on County and local government.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Texas

League of Women Voters Texas. More on voting in Texas, who can vote, voting by mail, and more! When it comes close to election time, you can download ballots. <https://www.lwvtexas.org/#gsc.tab=0>

Texas Standards

Texas Workforce Commission, "Civics: Citizen/Community Member Content Standards. These standards were finalized around 2021, delineating the subareas: Become and Stay Involved; Form and Express Opinions and Ideas, Work Together, and Take Action to Strengthen Communities.

https://tcall.tamu.edu/docs/Standards/Standards_FINAL_2021_Accessible-Civics.pdf