



Civics is Everywhere!

Working Civics into Your Classroom

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Literacy Texas
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What We'll Discuss

- Civics – Define
- Brainstorming
 - Lesson Planning
 - Instruction
 - Local Civics
- Assessment
- Standards
- Q & A

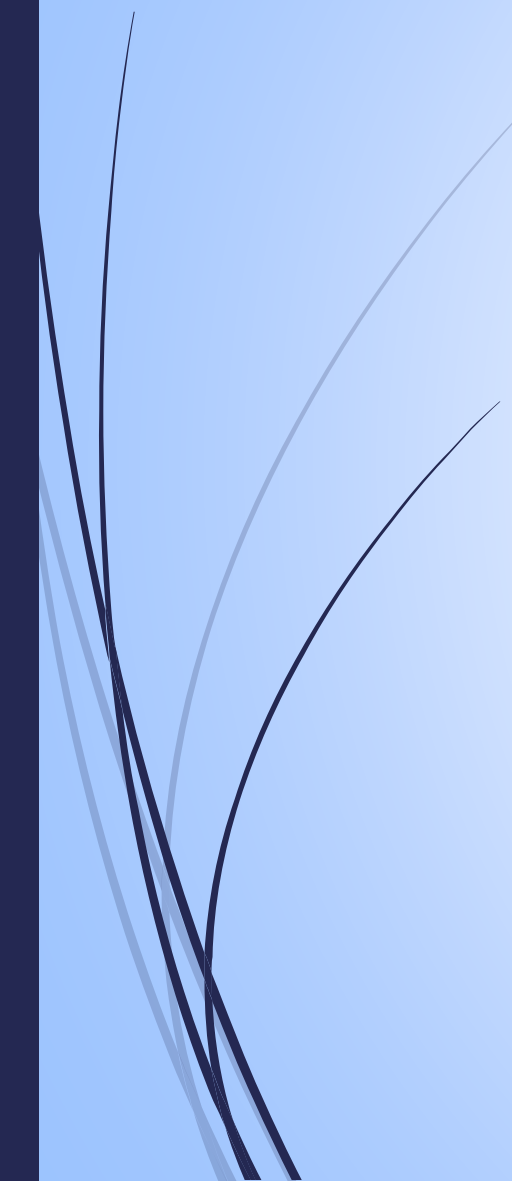


July 4th, 2026
United State's Semiquincentennial
250th Anniversary





Civics: Why?

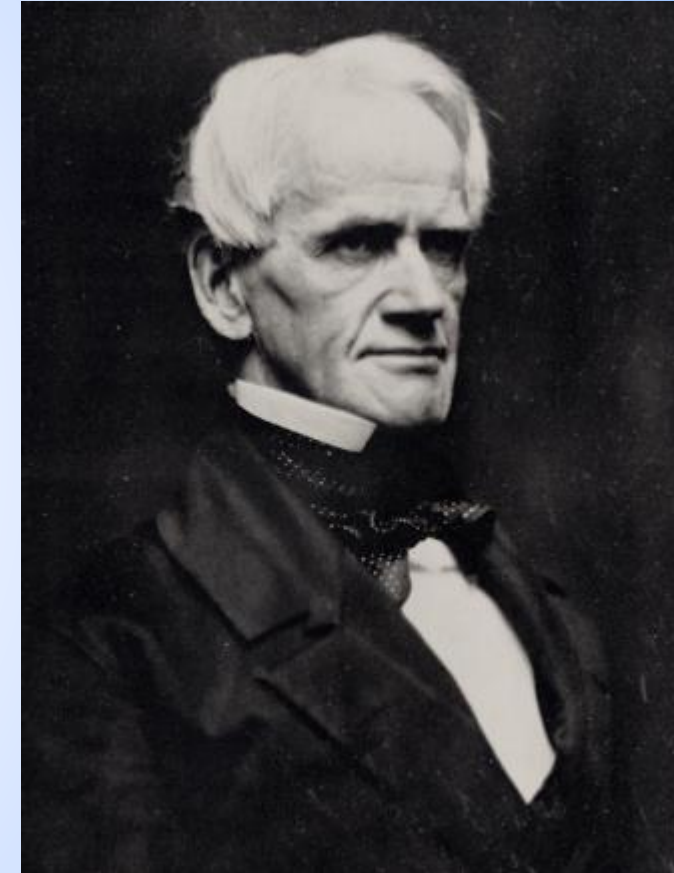
- ▶ Understand and appreciate ideals of our political order, and how it all works
 - ▶ Continue our founding ideas of self-government
 - ▶ Skill to debate challenges
 - ▶ To become more personally responsible and participatory
 - ▶ Standards!
- 

A Bit of History: Common School Movement, 1830 – 1872 & Horace Mann

What? Free, universal, non-sectarian public education – our educational foundation

Why?

- Sustain American political institutions
- Educated workforce to grow economy
- Reduce social disorders common prior to Civil war





Civics vs. Citizenship

Civics – what is it?



The study of the rights and duties of citizens and how government works.*

*<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/civics>



Let's Define:

- ➔ **Rights:** Something you are entitled to.
- ➔ **Duty:** A task or action that someone is required to perform by law.
- ➔ ***Responsibilities:*** Something you should do.

Rights of US Citizens - Constitution

- Free Speech
- Religion
- Press
- Assembly
- Petition Government



Duties of a US Citizen: Mandatory

- Respect/obey federal, state, and local laws
- Pay taxes honestly & on time (!) to federal, state, and local authorities
- Serve on a jury when called upon
- Register with Selective Service

Image: <https://pixabay.com/images/search/raised%20hands/>



Responsibilities of US Citizens:



- Support/defend Constitution
- Stay informed on community issues
- Participate in the democratic process
- Respect rights, beliefs, & opinions of others
- Participate in your local community
- Defend the country as needed

Civics in Adult Education, what's included?



Image: <https://makeameme.org/meme/fact-learning-about>



Civics Education Framework*

About the U.S.

- U.S. History, Geography, & Symbols
- Basics of U.S. Government
- Immigration Process

Civic Engagement

- Cultural Connections
- Democratic Process
- Participation in Community Life

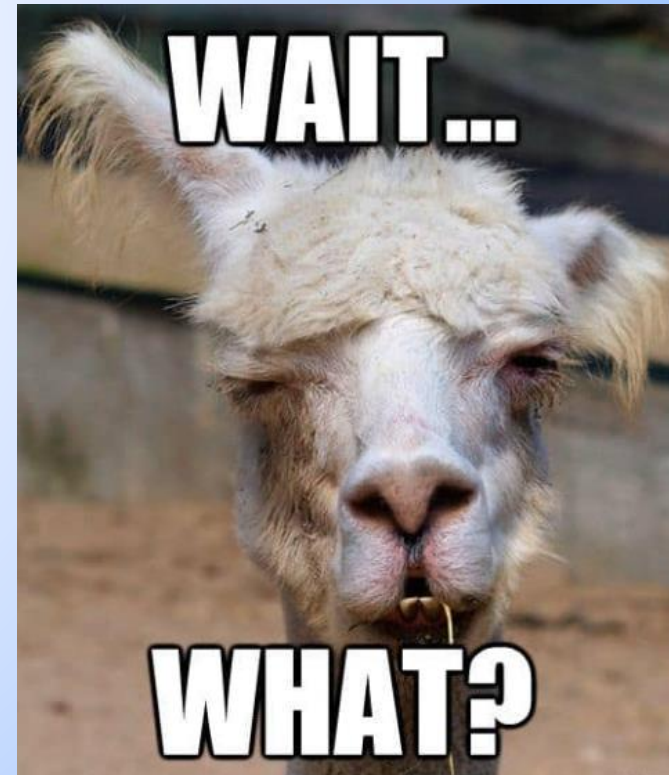
Systems & Services

- Caring for Children and Families
- Postsecondary Ed & Workforce
- Transportation & Safety
- Housing Resources
- Social and Community Services

(*World Ed, thank you Rachel Riggs!)

Wait, what? One more thing to teach?

- Growing Civics education for adults
- The adult learner & their goals
- Teach multiple subjects at one time
– why?
- Civics is the PERFECT base subject



Incorporating Civics in the Classroom

- ▶ Work with other teachers
- ▶ Multiple Skills within 1 lesson
 - ▶ **Digital Literacy, Reading/Writing, Communications, Research, Politics, History/Social Studies, Math, more?**
- ▶ Tie civics topic to students lives
- ▶ Break down larger concepts into smaller chunks

Activity #1: Brainstorming

Rights, Duties and Responsibilities of U.S. Citizens

- Go to handout, either *Rights, Duties, or Responsibilities*
- In your group, select a recorder to log your work
- Next to each *Right, Duty, or Responsibility*:
 - Come up with a 'Topic', and what 'Skills' you could teach as part of that topic.

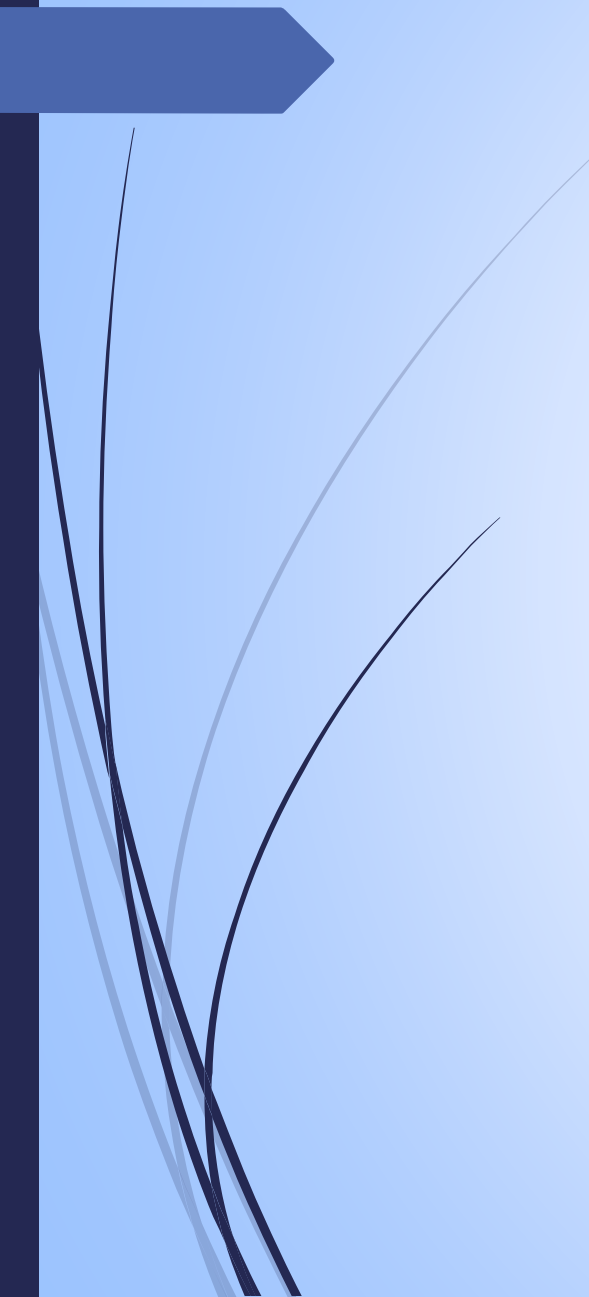
Civics in Your
Back Yard:

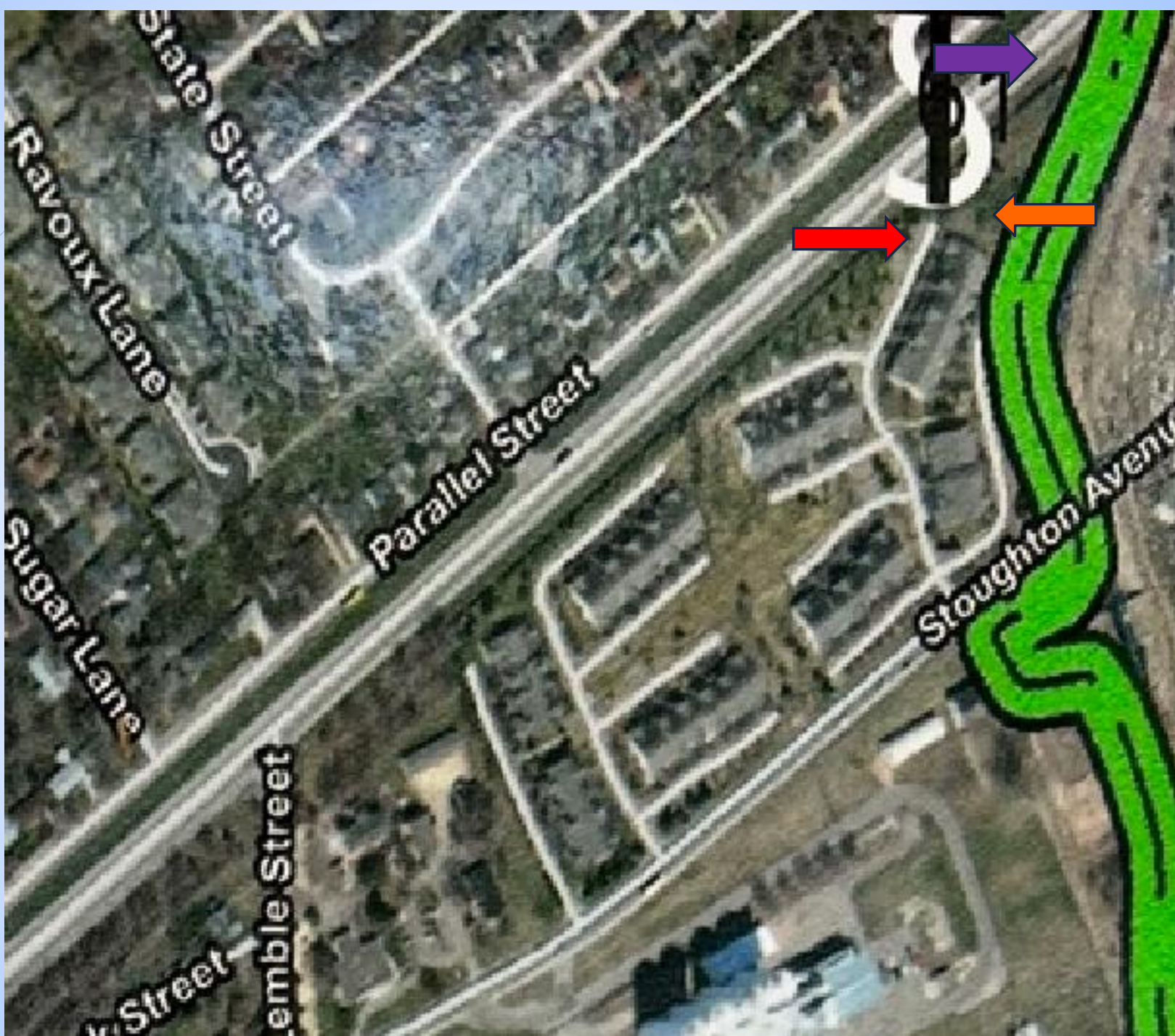
New Bike Path

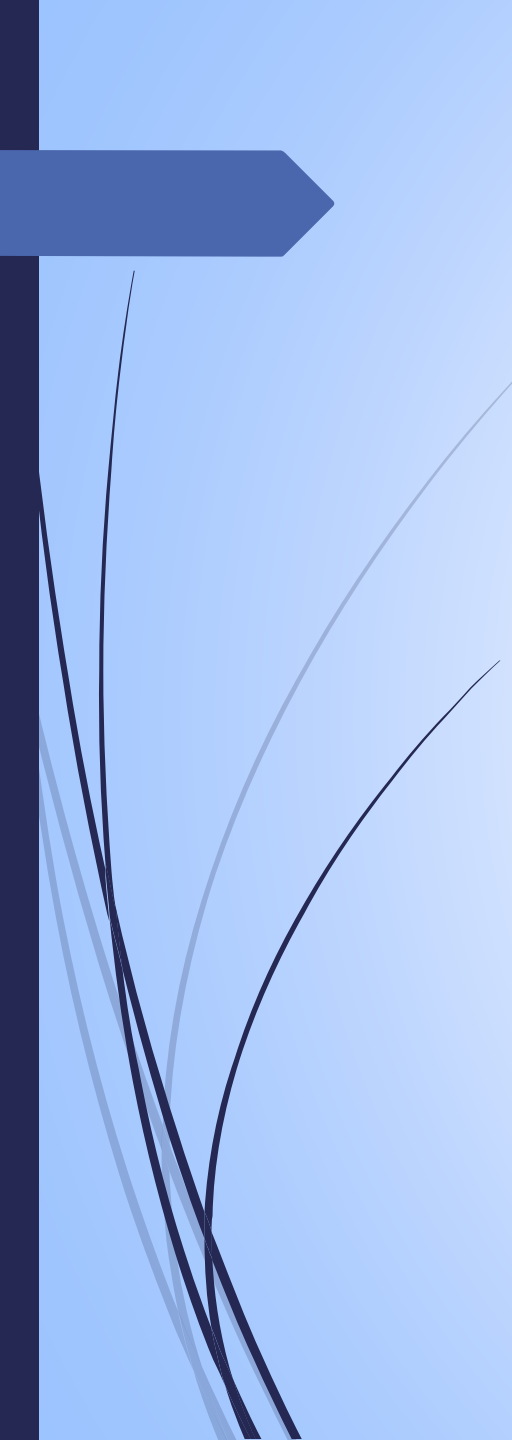


Chaska, Minnesota















New Bike Path: Positives & Negatives

➤ **Negatives with new bike path**

- Privacy
- Decreased home value
- Security
- Removal of 25+ trees
- Existing path already gets you to downtown

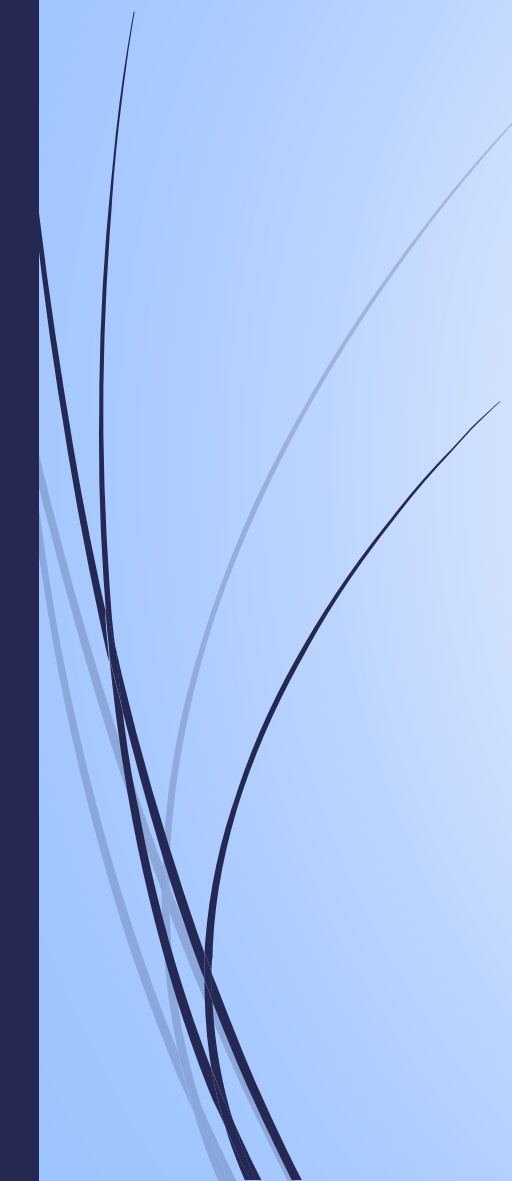
➤ **Positives of new path**

- Quicker access to downtown Chaska





Getting my local Civics on!

- ▶ What to do first, who to contact?
 - ▶ Local city administrators
 - ▶ Talk to neighbors; HOA
 - ▶ Research, read, communicate, attend local meetings
 - ▶ Routine follow-ups
 - ▶ And, for our ABE students?
- 

A Reminder: For every lesson – not just Civics!

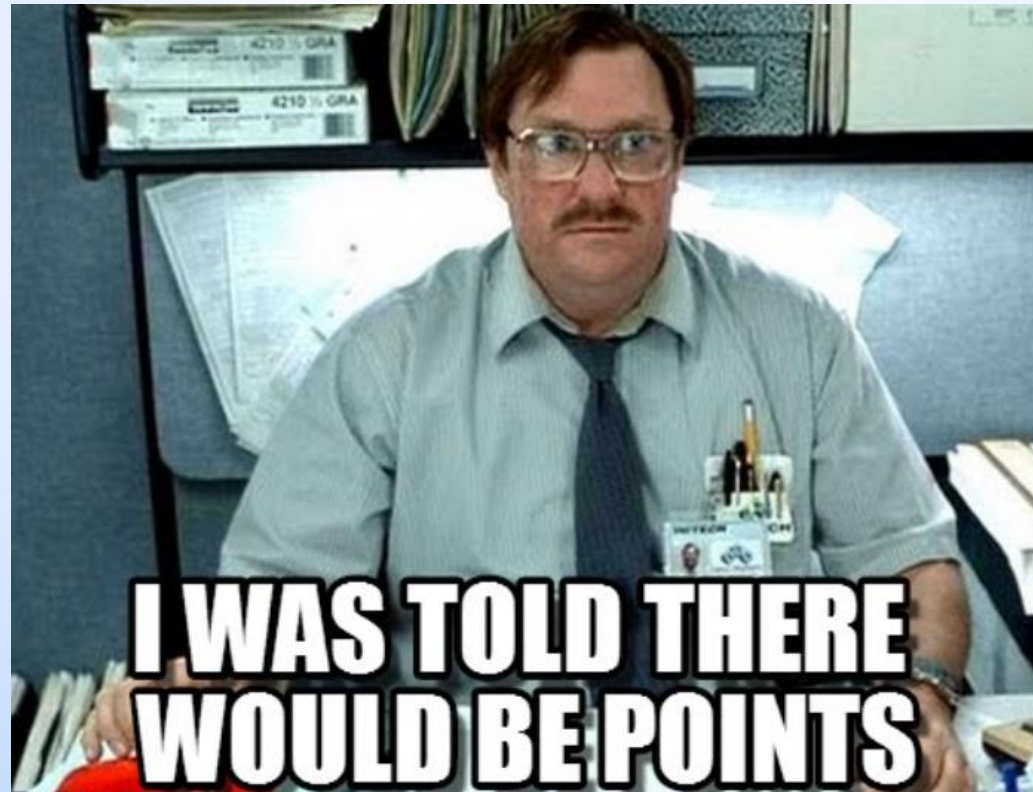
To keep everyone's attention:

- Intro topic to large group
- Break into small groups
- Individual work
- Return to large group to summarize
- Check for understanding



How do we know if they know?

Assessment!



How do we know what they know?

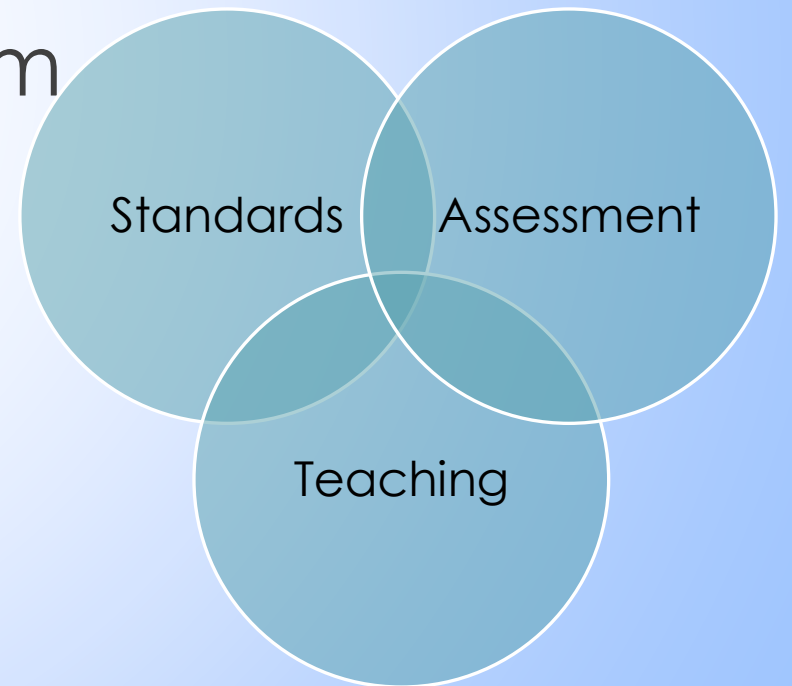
Assessment - revisit today's plan/goal. Then:

- You can give a test (just kidding!)
- Write a paragraph on what you learned
- Exit Cards
- Class discussion
- Small group discussion; report to all
- Other ideas?



Aligning to Standards

- ▶ Texas State Standards
- ▶ College & Career Readiness Standards
- ▶ National Reporting System
- ▶ TABE 11/12
- ▶ CASAS



Connecting Civics Instruction to Federal/State Standards

College & Career Ready Standards, CCR Anchor 4:

Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

How to start?

- ▶ CCRS Standards, Susan Pimentel, 2013
(<https://lincs.ed.gov/publications/pdf/CCRStandardsAdultEd.pdf>)
- ▶ Correlations (see publishers)
- ▶ Scope and Sequence (see publishers)

Let's Review!

- Civics – Rights & Responsibilities
- Civics & lesson planning
 - Instruction
 - Civics in your back yard!
 - Assessment ideas
- Connections to standards



Any questions?
Comments?
Suggestions?





Thank You!

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