



Lesson Title: Where Do We Fit In?

Context of the lesson within the unit: This is the second lesson in a unit designed to help students understand that the strength of our Democracy is equal to the strength of our citizens; that we do “fit in” to the government’s design of the people, by the people and for the people. This specific lesson relates to the judicial system and our role as citizens.

Standards Addressed:

Grade 5 History/Social Studies Standards:

5.7.3 Understand the fundamental principals of American Constitutional democracy, including how the government derives its power from the people and the primacy of individual liberty.

Language Art Standards:

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

2.1 Identify the structural features of popular media (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online information) and use features to obtain information.

2.3 Discern main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.

Visual Art Standard:

2.7 Communicate values, opinions, or personal insights through an original work of art.

Objective(s):

Students will be able to show their understanding of a youth’s role in the judicial system after watching a video segment called, “A Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence”.

Students will discuss if they have a responsibility in educating others on the role citizens play in government issues and what those roles might involve.



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Essential Questions/Issues:

Where do we as young citizens fit in to the judicial system?

Whose responsibility is it to educate others about their civic duties?



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Assessment: Students will be evaluated through informal checks for understanding, teacher observation, and the assessment of the interpretive illustration activity and of their participation in class discussion regarding educating citizens.

Quality Criteria:

Level of Understanding Demonstrated	4 Advanced	3 Proficient	2 Basic	1 Below Basic
<p>Process:</p> <p>Based on the content of their illustration, student demonstrates understanding about the role of youth in the judicial system and how educating others on this issue is pertinent to the integrity of our democracy.</p> <p>The illustration should show where judges, laws and citizens, mainly youth, “fit” in the judicial system.</p>	<p>Strongly demonstrates a clear vision of understanding the judicial system. Student creates an accurate and interesting illustration that adequately addresses the issue of their role in the judicial system, managing time wisely and communicating efforts with teacher.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a clear vision of understanding the judicial system. Student creates a somewhat accurate and illustration that adequately address the issue of their role in the judicial system, managing time wisely and communicating efforts with teacher.</p>	<p>Demonstrates a somewhat clear vision of understanding the judicial system. Student creates an illustration that addresses the issue of their role in the judicial system, managing time wisely and communicating efforts with teacher.</p>	<p>Completes final illustration. Some organization apparent. The issue is somewhat clear, little time management apparent, little to no communication with teacher.</p>



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<p>Hook: Quick review</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Elicit class review from our reading material and list of community involvements.</p>	<p>With partner, take a minute to see what each remembers. As a class, volunteers share thoughts and key terms from yesterday.</p>
<p>Show Movie: Our Community</p> <p>5 minutes</p>	<p>Movie Maker (see references for downloading) film of community members in action. (Teacher made) I went around my specific area (community) and took pictures of people being civically involved. For example the Goodwill, Salvation Army and Jury Services. I then compiled these photos into Movie Maker creating a short video put to music. (song – <i>Imagine</i> by Jack Johnson)</p>	<p>View film and follow up with comments.</p> <p>What do you see people in the video doing for the community?</p> <p>How does this help others?</p> <p>Does anyone you know participate in community events?</p>
<p>Guest Speaker:</p> <p>30 minutes</p>	<p>Person from the community: newspaper reporter, television cameraman, television newscaster, etc...to share their favorite story involving youths doing something good for the community and showing civic virtue.</p>	<p>Students will respectfully listen and ask questions upon the completion of the guest speaker’s story.</p>



CALIFORNIA ON MY HONOR

Curricula for K-12 Civics Education

<p>Video:</p> <p>6:18 minutes</p>	<p>Share Video: Segment of “A Conversation on the Constitution: Judicial Independence” (Start of video to 6:18) Sunnylands Seminars (see references)</p>	<p>View film and reiterate the message of what the role is for judges, citizens and laws. How are these connected?</p>
<p>Drawing</p> <p>Start in class – Complete at home</p>	<p>Review video segment, specifically the part about judicial system, its boundaries and ordinary citizens.</p>	<p>Students will draw a scene or symbol of their interpretation of how the judicial system works to provide boundaries, but also how ordinary citizens play a part in the process.</p>

Special Needs of students are considered in this lesson:

Students are put into flexible grouping scenarios that will address all learning modalities including special need students within our full inclusion program, as well as EL Learners. This activity provides a hands-on learning environment with plenty of opportunities for movement, verbal, and non-verbal communication.

Extension Ideas:

This lesson is designed to get students thinking beyond the classroom, into the community, but could easily be taken beyond the community and into a bigger audience base within the U.S.



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Materials and Resources Needed:

- Video – Sunnyland Seminars, DVD player and TV, along with various materials covered during guest speakers' visits. Construction paper for drawings. Colored pencils and/or markers.

References:

Sunnyland Seminars – Video Resources: *The Constitution Project: An Independent Judiciary* <http://sunnylandsclassroom.org/Asset.aspx?id=1256>

Windows Movie Maker - <http://www.brothersoft.com/windows-movie-maker-download-67210.html>

Civic podcasts – <http://www.civiced.org/>



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Outline of Unit Plan:

Unit Title Will You All Please Rise?