



## Curricular Materials and Classroom Resources

*(listed by grade level)*

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	ORG.
<i>TFK Extra! Your Ideas Count</i>	This fun-filled supplement edition to <i>TIME for Kids</i> for grades 2 and 3, published by <i>TIME</i> magazine, helps students understand basic ideas about our system of government.	2–3	NCSL
<i>America's Legislators Back to School Program</i> brochure	Starting in the third week of September, state legislators from across the nation visit classrooms to bring civics to life for students.	2–12	NCSL
<i>Democracy Kids Website</i> fact sheet	This highly interactive website teaches students what democracy means, how representative democracy works, and how they can get involved. Activities include crossword puzzles, short <i>Facts of Congress</i> videos, presentations on what legislators do, how to contact a legislator effectively, and how to make a difference.	2–6	CCIU
<i>The Center on Congress on the Web</i> fact sheet	This fact sheet describes the classroom resources featured on the Center on Congress website, <a href="http://www.centeroncongress.org">http://www.centeroncongress.org</a> .	2–12	CCIU
<i>TFK Extra! Your Ideas Count</i>	This supplement to <i>TIME for Kids</i> , published by <i>TIME</i> magazine, tells fourth–sixth graders about representative democracy and how laws affect their lives, and shows them that legislators are real people. It also informs students about Congress and state legislatures.	4–6	NCSL
<i>Citizen Brain</i> DVD	This fifteen-minute, fun-filled video combining live action and animation shows upper elementary school students how to thrive in American democracy.	4–6	NCSL
<i>Lunch Break with Dr. Broccoli: Video on Compromise</i> CD	<i>Lunch Break with Dr. Broccoli</i> is an entertaining nine-minute animated video explaining concept of compromise in Congress, aimed at upper elementary school students though also appropriate for middle school.	4-9	CCIU
<b>Lesson Plans that Complement the Themes of the America's Legislators Back to School Program</b>	These lesson plans complement the NCSL materials used by legislators participating in the America's Legislators Back to School Program. The plans can be found at <a href="http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=746&amp;tabs=1116.88.414#414">http://www.ncsl.org/Default.aspx?TabID=746&amp;tabs=1116.88.414#414</a> (click only on the lesson plan box).	4–12	NCSL

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	ORG.
<b><i>Oceana: A Virtual Democracy</i></b> fact sheet	<i>Oceana</i> is an online role-playing game that teaches young people how to become good citizens. It helps middle school students develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to become informed and civically engaged in a society of diverse individuals and opinions. <i>Oceana</i> will be ready for classroom testing Spring 2011.	5-9	CCIU
<b><i>Understanding Congress: A Citizen's Guide</i></b>	This guide gives students the basic information they need to know about Congress. Sections include "Representative Democracy," "How Congress Functions," "How Members of Congress Work," and "How You Participate."	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Interactive Learning on the Web</i></b> fact sheet	Developed for both students and the general public, these interactive learning activities are designed to give a fresh perspective on how the U.S. Congress works, the impact of Congress, and the citizen's role in the process.	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Interactive Congress: Student Activities</i></b> CD	This CD includes activities and resources to help students understand how Congress works, what members of Congress do, and the importance of citizen participation. The CD comprises eight interactive learning modules previously available only at the Center on Congress website, plus an introductory module that pulls together key sections of these eight e-learning modules in shorter formats.	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Facts of Congress</i></b> CD	<i>Facts of Congress</i> is a series of one-minute animated videos. Titles include "Women in Congress," "Checks and Balances," "Deliberation," and "One Vote."	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Congressional Moments</i></b> CD	These two-minute radio spots explore specific ways in which the work of Congress has made a difference in people's lives—from food safety and health research to the interstate highway system and the impact of Title IX.	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Virtual Congress</i></b> fact sheets	<i>Virtual Congress</i> is a fully functional online replica of the U.S. Congress where students meet and work in realistic locations that are key to the legislative process. Students can take a virtual tour of the Capitol, become online members of Congress, propose and discuss in-world their own ideas for legislation, and experience what it is like to find common ground in order to move their proposals along. <a href="http://www.tpscongress.org/teachers/activity.php?id=12">http://www.tpscongress.org/teachers/activity.php?id=12</a>	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Best Practices: Exemplary Civics Teaching Practice</i></b>	These resources provide a "how-to" guide for replicating exemplary civics teaching practices. They include video clips of classroom activities, a comprehensive teacher's guide, and background information. <a href="http://congress.indiana.edu/learn_about/feature/teacher_materials.php">http://congress.indiana.edu/learn_about/feature/teacher_materials.php</a>	5-12	CCIU
<b><i>Comments on Congress</i></b> articles by Lee Hamilton	This resource is a collection of editorials written by former Congressman Lee Hamilton explaining why Congress works the way it does and the impact it has, and suggesting ways in which Congress could be improved or reformed.	7-12	CCIU

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	ORG.
<i>Representative Democracy in America</i> DVD and instructional guide	A seven-part video series to help students understand our system of representative democracy. The programs, each approximately fifteen minutes in length, address the topics of the roots of representative democracy; federalism and the separation of powers; the roles of representatives, executives, and justices; how our representatives are chosen; and the role of citizens. An instructional guide accompanies the series with two lesson plans for each program, a synopsis, a bibliography, and correlations to the <i>We the People: The Citizen &amp; the Constitution</i> (Level 3) text.	7–12	CCE
<i>How Congress Works: The Insider's View</i> fact sheet	These videos provide students the perspectives of members of Congress and key congressional staff on how Congress works and the importance of citizen participation. <a href="http://www.centeroncongress.org/modules/flashVids/index.html">http://www.centeroncongress.org/modules/flashVids/index.html</a>	7–12	CCIU
American Democracy Television (ADTV)	American Democracy Television (ADTV) is a virtual network of 500 public, education, and government access (PEG) channels in fifty states that provides quality, nonpartisan programming about Congress and state legislatures. For more information about stations in your area that carry ADTV programming, go to <a href="http://www.representativedemocracy.org/repdem_documents/ADTV_ByState.htm">www.representativedemocracy.org/repdem_documents/ADTV_ByState.htm</a>	7–12	
<i>Making Your Voice Heard: How to Work with Congress</i>	This booklet helps citizens get off the sidelines and constructively express opinions to those who hold federal office. It offers practical tips on how to communicate with Congress and discusses how citizens can amplify their voices by connecting with interest groups and political parties.	7–12	CCIU
<i>Teaching with Primary Sources</i> fact sheet	This new website offers an extensive suite of interactive online activities designed to help teachers access and use the digital primary source materials of the Library of Congress. One module includes activities that use political cartoons to examine common criticisms of Congress; another deals with analyzing congressional floor debates. A teacher and student workspace allows teachers to create a password-protected area for students to complete and save various activities.	7–12	CCIU
Congressional Backgrounders	Congressional Backgrounders provide detailed background information on the legislative process, the impact of Congress, the roles of its members, how a member decides to vote, and frequently asked questions about Congress. A congressional glossary is included. <a href="http://centeroncongress.org/learn_about/feature/congressional_background_information.php">http://centeroncongress.org/learn_about/feature/congressional_background_information.php</a>	7–12	CCIU
<i>You Rule</i> DVD	Join four students as they discover how, in American democracy, citizens really do rule and young people do have a voice.	7–12	NCSL
<i>You Rule</i> booklet	You Rule. That's the message that this colorful and engaging booklet brings to young people. Through historical and contemporary examples, students learn about our system of representative democracy and how they can get involved and have a voice.	7–12	NCSL

RESOURCE	DESCRIPTION	GRADE LEVELS	ORG.
<i>Your Ideas Count! Representative Democracy and You</i>	This booklet gauges students' knowledge of and attitudes about our system of government. Students are asked to respond to a series of questions that reveal how strongly they feel democracy works for them. The booklet ends with a challenge to get involved in building relationships of trust with elected officials.	9–12	NCSL
<i>Your Ideas Count! Representative Democracy and You, Congressional Edition</i>	Based on the <i>Your Ideas Count: Representative Democracy and You</i> booklet, the Congressional Edition focuses on students' knowledge of and attitudes toward the U.S. Congress.	9–12	CCIU
<i>inTime: Your Ideas Count!</i>	This special edition of <i>inTime</i> tells high school students why speaking up in our system of democracy matters and how they can make their voice heard.	9–12	NCSL
<i>Fundamentals of Representative Democracy</i>	<i>Fundamentals of Representative Democracy</i> is a collection of lesson plans that provides students with a thorough understanding of the U.S. system of government. The lessons build upon one another, starting with “Appreciating Democracy,” moving on to “Appreciating Representation,” and finishing with “What Makes Lawmakers Tick?” <u>Appreciating Democracy</u> : This lesson is designed to teach students to appreciate the most basic practices of democracy in the United States. Firstly, that people have different values, interests, and opinions, and secondly, that these differences are often settled in legislative bodies by means of deliberation and negotiation, with compromise and a majority vote as key elements. <u>Appreciating Representation</u> : This lesson adds that dealing with differences can be very difficult indeed. The focus here is on which issues in the legislative process represent people's values, interests, and priorities, and how and to what degree? <u>What Makes Lawmakers Tick?</u> This lesson is designed for civics, American government, and history courses taught at the high school level. It gives students a sense of what lawmakers are like and, in particular, what motivates them as public officials.	9–12	NCSL
<b>The Thicket</b>	A blog by and for legislative junkies, The Thicket ( <a href="http://www.ncsl.org/thethicket">www.ncsl.org/thethicket</a> ) provides timely information about state legislatures and civic education.	9–12	NCSL

### Websites

- Representative Democracy in America: Voices of the People, [www.representativedemocracy.org](http://www.representativedemocracy.org)
- Center for Civic Education, [www.civiced.org/rda](http://www.civiced.org/rda)
- Center on Congress at Indiana University, [www.centeroncongress.org](http://www.centeroncongress.org)
- Trust for Representative Democracy, National Conference of State Legislatures, [www.ncsl.org/trust](http://www.ncsl.org/trust)
- American Democracy TV channel on YouTube, <http://www.youtube.com/user/AmericanDemocracyTV>
- Youth and Democracy on Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Youth-and-Democracy/274472763512?v=info>