

Hello Everyone!

New From PBS: The Greatest Sacrifice: A Lesson Plan for Veterans Day

In honor of Veterans Day coming up on November 11, use [this interactive lesson plan](#) to help your students understand the significance of the holiday and the true meaning of sacrifice. These activities will have your students identifying important veterans in their lives, examining an interactive timeline of military history, and studying issues that veterans face today.

2024 Veteran's Day Guide

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Day National Committee are pleased to provide you with [this Teachers Resource Guide](#).

There are about 18 million Veterans living among us, in every state and territory and from every walk of life. Students in your class may be the son, daughter, cousin, or other relative of a Veteran or current service member. By engaging in discussion about these crucial members of our society, your students will be able to hear from and about those who helped shape U.S. history.

This resource guide, along with another group of America's finest — our teachers — will allow your students to learn more about the role our brave Veterans have played in defending and preserving our nation. It is our hope that by thanking America's Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, we can reward them with the honor they so richly deserve.

Path to Honor Online History

Just in time for Veteran's Day, [Path to Honor](#) from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society provides timely lesson plans for grades 6–12.

Path to Honor is a free interactive platform that allows students to explore these important concepts. Designed to be self-directed or teacher-led, this resource will help you:

- Nurture connections with your students
- Lead students in personal development and character self-exploration
- Supplement civics and U.S. history courses easily and effectively

Registration Now Open for 2024 SAS Institute

Mark your calendars for December 8-11, 2024! Registration is now open for SAS Institute 2024, Purposeful Leadership: Support. Empower. Partner.

This year's SAS Institute features keynote speakers, including:

Chase Mielke, nationally recognized author, speaker, and expert on applying research-based, teacher-tested practices to improve educator well-being

Orion Jean, 2021 TIME Kid of the Year, changemaker, author, and a passionate and engaging speaker

Michael Bonner, educator, disruptive innovator, entrepreneur, author, and motivational speaker

Mark Perna, acclaimed speaker, generational expert, bestselling author, and national thought leader.

This year's SAS Institute will also include new seminar and series sessions, various breakout sessions, an Act 45 course, informational tables, and special evening events. To learn more and to register, visit the [SAS Institute Registration webpage](#).

From Facing History: Imagining Solutions to Political Polarization During the Election Season

The political polarization in our country can feel intense and troubling, especially amidst a presidential contest. [Imagining Solutions to Political Polarization During the Election Season](#) offers perspective on what causes this division and suggests ways we can come together. The educational strategies and expert research in this article can help students better understand political polarization and embrace diversity of thought.

From the Lou Frey Institute: Election Resources

Civics is all around us. There is a lot to know about the government and how “We the People” interact with the government and each other. [New Civics in Real Life articles](#) are released each week and offer students a one-page wealth of information for current events happening.

Resources for Teaching about Voting, Elections, and the Presidency from Street Law

The 2024 election season is upon us, and it's the perfect opportunity to deepen your students' understanding of democratic processes.

Street Law has gathered a [collection of their essential resources](#) to help you explore critical topics in your classroom related to elections, voting, and the presidency.

It features a curated selection of Supreme Court case materials, engaging deliberation activities, and comprehensive lesson plans that explore critical topics like voting rights, gerrymandering, the Electoral College, campaign finance, and the role of the presidency in American democracy.

The materials are conveniently organized into the following themed sections:

- Voting, Voting Rights, and Gerrymandering
- Elections and the Electoral College
- Campaign Financing
- The Presidency

iCivics Election Headquarters

The best way to strengthen our democracy is to teach it. Presidential elections provide one of the most visible teachable moments for civic education.

By discussing the election, the processes surrounding it, and the role of the people, we have the opportunity to build young people's confidence in our country.

With iCivics [free election-focused games and nonpartisan teaching resources](#) specific to high school, middle school, and elementary students, you can help young people understand the power of their voice and vote; learn about state, local, and federal election processes; and become informed and engaged participants.

iCivics Election HQ contains curated, nonpartisan teaching resources to help students learn about the presidential election process. These, include games, lesson plans, slide decks, videos, infographics, and more.

Teaching Presidential Elections with the Bill of Rights Institute

The Bill of Rights Institute has a variety of resources to support instruction around the 2024 elections and beyond. Resources include:

- [The Elections Playlist](#) that explores the process of elections laid out in the Constitution.
- Election Videos on topics like:
- [The Electoral College](#)
- [Bush v. Gore](#)
- Election Scholar Talks
- [American Resilience & the 1968 Election with Michael Nelson | BRI Scholar Talks](#)
- [Jonathan White: 1824 & Contentious Elections | BRI Scholar Talks](#)
- [A. James Fuller: The Election of 1860 | BRI Scholar Talks](#)
- The Bill of Rights Institute has partnered with Huddle Up, an expert in IEP therapy, SEL, and K-12 mental health services, to provide [free downloadable resources](#), including regulation cards, breathing visuals, and break cards that educators can share with students navigating election stress.

New season of *On Our Minds* focuses on the election

A special seven-episode season of *On Our Minds*, a teen life podcast from PBS News [Student Reporting Labs](#) (SRL), has begun, and [you can find the first episode here](#) or wherever you download podcasts.

This season will focus on the issues and impacts of the 2024 election for young people. [On Our Minds: Election 2024](#) will include interviews with America's youngest political candidates and cover topics like how students' conceptions of America have changed, the electoral college, who gets to vote and make decisions, free speech and censorship, and how to tackle election disinformation.

New from PBS LearningMedia: WHAT is Media Literacy and HOW Can Simple Shifts Center It?

Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication.

Teach media literacy in your classroom and help your students learn to combat misinformation, empower them to ask questions, think critically, and create media in a variety of formats. [This article](#), written by middle school teacher Mary Kate Longergan, introduces three easy-to-implement shifts you can make to help center media literacy within your classroom.

NOTE: Sites identified here have been reviewed by the content advisor; however, educators are advised to preview for appropriateness for their respective classrooms.

Election 2024 Misinformation Dashboard from the News Literacy Project

The News Literacy Project (NLP) recently debuted their [Misinformation Dashboard: Election 2024](#). This free online resource collects examples of viral rumors, doctored images, conspiracy theories and AI-generated fakes. Election misinformation poses an existential threat to democracy, and individual fact-checks are not adequate to counter this danger.

The dashboard goes above and beyond by doing the following:

- Highlighting of-the-moment data.
- Analyzing common trends and topics within a larger context
- Featuring dynamic visualizations that quickly illuminate information
- Providing educators with real-time examples for the classroom and enhancing the understanding of journalists and researchers diving into election misinformation

Everything on the dashboard is interactive. Click on the two options at the top of the dashboard to explore election misinformation by theme or type. You'll find examples of fabricated or manipulated content, false or misleading context and many forms of AI-generated deceptions. NLP is tracking the trends regarding election integrity, party platforms and the candidates themselves.

Virtual Program: "Antisemitism: Understanding and Countering this Hatred Today"

As part of the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education's ongoing efforts to provide resources related to the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Violations, we have been able to make a professional development series available to educators (including PDE staff) called "Echoes and Reflections." These professional development opportunities are jointly funded and endorsed by the Anti-Defamation League, the USC Shoah Foundation, and Yad Vashem, and are offered at no cost to participants.

There is a **virtual** opportunity in this series entitled, "Antisemitism: Understanding and Countering this Hatred Today," which is being hosted by IU6 on **November 5, 2024, from 3:00pm – 5:00pm**. If you are interested in participating, please register at [the Meeting Registration webpage](#).

The entire series, with multiple virtual and in-person opportunities, is available in the Holocaust, Genocide, and Human Rights Violations Toolkit on our [SAS website](#) under the professional learning heading.

IU6 is hoping to add a few more participants to the November 5th virtual learning opportunity, so there is still time and space available for you or others to join.

Middle States Council for the Social Studies Awards

Each year the Middle States Council for Social Studies sponsors [numerous awards](#) to recognize the outstanding work by social studies teachers, student teachers, and school programs. We are currently seeking nominations for the following awards. Nominations for these awards may come from classroom teachers, professors, supervisors, principals, and local or state council members in the Middle States region. **The deadline to submit a nomination online is December 22, 2024.**

For more information about these awards, please get in touch with Mr. Kevin Wagner, MSCSS Awards Chair, at wagnerk1973@gmail.com

Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers

Street Law is now accepting applications for its 2025 [Supreme Court Summer Institute for Teachers](#).

You could be one of 60 secondary social studies educators selected to strengthen and expand your instruction on the Court and its cases!

- Gain unrivaled access to a stellar lineup of SCOTUS experts and advocates
- Learn innovative strategies to teach about current and historical cases
- Hear decisions announced in the courtroom and attend a special reception at the Court (Court schedule permitting)
- [View last year's Institute agenda](#)
- Application deadline: March 1, 2025

The Institute is funded by and delivered in partnership with the [Supreme Court Historical Society](#).

From Retro Report: Sovereignty & Self-Determination: Contemporary Indigenous Histories

[Join Retro Report](#) for two evenings of professional learning. The event will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, Nov. 12th and Wednesday, Nov 13th -- Both nights from 7:00-8:30PM ET. You must join both nights in order to receive a \$75 stipend. It will preview engaging short films and explore ready-to-use lessons and interactive resources.

Date & Time

- Nov 12, 2024 07:00 PM
- Nov 13, 2024 07:00 PM

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From PBS LearningMedia: Native American Heritage Collection

[Take a look](#) at Indigenous art, history, and culture as told through the historians, artists, students, and scientists in this featured resource collection.

Resources for Native American History Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. The National Archives, Library of Congress, and the Smithsonian have [curated resources and lesson plans](#) to enhance your classroom practice. Keep this site bookmarked to find ways to integrate Native American History throughout the year.

For more resources to teach inclusive history per the Illinois mandates, check out our [Inclusive History Toolkit](#).

Calling All High School Students! PennDOT Announces Eighth Annual Innovations Challenge!

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) announced its eighth annual [Innovations Challenge](#), which encourages students to use their problem-solving, creative and strategic-thinking abilities to solve real-world transportation challenges in a competition among their peers. The Innovations Challenge is open to all students in grades 9-12, regardless of their school's learning model.

For this year's challenge, students are asked to develop a cost-effective, innovative solution that can help PennDOT more effectively increase awareness of seat belt safety and change behavior to improve roadway safety.

For complete Innovations Challenge details, visit www.penndot.pa.gov/innovation and scroll down to select the blue Innovations Challenge tile box. **The submission deadline is Jan. 31, 2025.**

Please share this information with all faculty members and encourage all eligible students within your school to participate.

For questions or more information, email PennDOT's Bureau of Innovations at DOTInnovations@pa.gov.

Thank you for subscribing to the SAS Social Studies PLC and for all you do every day for the students in Pennsylvania!

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