Building Civic Literacy from an Early Age

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When students learn and understand how their governments and communities work, and the ways citizens and leaders collaborate to solve problems at the local, state and national levels, they build essential knowledge and skills necessary for success at school, in the workplace, and for life. Here are a few examples of civic literacy integration at different grade levels.

Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
Kindergarten	• Read informational text • Write an opinion about a topic • Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	• Examples of good citizenship • Understand why good citizens follow rules • Good citizens respect the rights of others
1st Grade	• Read informational text • Write a reasoned opinion about a topic • Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	• Explain why and how national holidays are celebrated • Why rules and laws are needed in the community • Roles of authority figures in the community • Notable civic leaders • How to solve conflicts at school and in the community
2nd Grade	• Read informational text • Write a reasoned opinion about a topic • Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	• Role and services of local government • Purpose and function of government • Roles of local government leaders • How and why governments create laws • How historical leaders shaped history
3rd Grade	• Read and analyze informational text • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information • Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and	• Development and roles of local government • Structure of local government • Leadership roles in local government • Three branches of government and how they relate to different levels of government

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Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
	information clearly • Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	• Roles citizens play in the community (political, social and economic) • How to be an informed, engaged and responsible citizen • How historical events shaped the community • Contributions of civic leaders over history
4th Grade	• Read and analyze informational text • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information • Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly • Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	• How leaders and citizens established NC and its communities • Development and history of NC government and political systems • Read and understand NC Constitution • Three branches of NC government • Roles and responsibilities of NC elected leaders • Compare and contrast NC and local governments • Roles, rights and responsibilities of NC citizens
5th Grade	• Read and analyze informational text • Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information • Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly	• Role of government • Structures and powers of 3 branches of government • Historical documents that shaped US government foundations • American democracy • Roles, rights and responsibilities of American citizens • US Constitution • Active civic participation is integral to American democracy

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Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
	• Discuss topics, listen to others, ask and answer questions	
6th Grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Compare and contrast historic and current events and issues • Roles and structures of governments through history • Ideas, such as democracy, that shape political systems through history • Requirements of citizenship under different governments • Structure and functions of legal systems in different governments
7th Grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Use primary and secondary sources to interpret historical perspectives • Ideas and theories that shape political thought • How concept of democracy has influenced political ideas in different places • Compare/contrast citizenship in different places • Compare/contrast sources of political power and governmental authority in different places
8th Grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Ways that citizens and leaders have influenced NC and US through history • Forms of civic and political leadership • Forms of citizen action

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Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
		• Role of debate, compromise and negotiation in NC and US • Compare and contrast historical and current issues impacting NC and US • Government systems at the local, state and national levels • Role of democracy in local, state and national governments • Founding and historical documents (NC and US) • NC and US Constitutions • Federalism • Citizens rights, responsibilities and freedoms • Examples of citizen participation • Ways leaders and citizens work together to solve problems • Active citizen participation and impacts on community, state and national governments and issues
9th Grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Role and impacts of government, civic participation and leadership through world history
10th Grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument	• Why/how America was founded as a constitutional democracy • Founding documents and theories in them

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Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
	• Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Federalism and role of government over time
		• American democracy, principles and ideals
		• Political processes and governmental structures
		• Checks and balances, separation of powers, rule o law
		• Structures of national, state and local governments
		• Three branches of government
		• Functions and powers of NC and local governments
		• US Constitution and NC Constitution
		• Compare US government with foreign government
		• Individual rights and responsibilities in US, NC and local governments
		• Public policy and issues, and role of federal, state and local governments
		• Political parties and role of politics in policy and decision-making
		• Civic participation and responsibility
		• Rule of law and lawmaking processes at national, NC and local levels
		• Election process, voting and suffrage
		• Law enforcement at different levels of government
		• Impact of politics and interest groups in public policy and law

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Grade	English/Language Arts (Common Core)	Social Studies (NC Essential Standards)
		• Roles of citizens at national, NC local levels Citizenship, freedoms, obligations and responsibilities • Federal and state court systems • Active, responsible, informed civic participation
11th Grade	• Read, analyze , understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• Role and impacts of government, civic participation and leadership through United States history (multiple impacts)
12th grade	• Read, analyze, understand informational text • Write reasoned argument • Write informational, explanatory and research-based text	• No required course for this grade