

Murry Bergtraum High School for Business Careers
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Curriculum Map: Participation in Government, [John Elfrank-Dana](#)

Note: This map is based on the recommendations and concepts presented in the [New York State Curriculum](#) for this course. Other sources include: *Civics for Democracy*, by Katherine Isaac and *Inventing the Future* by [The Sustainability Education Center](#) and PBS NOW www.pbs.org/now.

Month	Topics	Concepts	Skills	Assess/Projects
September/February <i>Do we need government?</i>	Human Nature, Hobbes vs. Goldman, Political Economy	Free will/ determinism, Reason, Enlightenment, Power, Democracy, Human rights, Utopia	Internet: research & communications. Critical thinking, Collaboration, Effective writing	Test/Quizzes/ Online discussions
October/March <i>Do we live in a "healthy" democracy?</i>	Electoral behavior, democracy, campaign finance	IRV vs. District System; proportional representation vs. winner-take-all; rep. democracy vs. direct democracy	Internet: research & communications. Critical thinking, Collaboration, Effective writing	Test/Quizzes/Online discussions
November/April <i>How have citizens changed our world?</i>	History of: Civil rights, consumer, women's, peace and environmental movements.	Unions, equality, civil disobedience, organization, media, global warming	Internet: research & communications. Critical thinking, Collaboration, Effective writing	Poster presentations, test
December/May <i>How can we be "public" citizens?</i>	Spectator democracy vs. Public citizenship	<i>Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights</i> , Cyber activism, Local engagement, civil disobedience	Internet: research & communications. Critical thinking, Collaboration, Effective writing	Student Issue Blog Project / Engagement activity.
January/May & June <i>Do our media serve democracy well?</i>	Propaganda, Thought control in democracies,	Corporate media, ideology, flack, public ownership of the airwaves, "fair and balanced"	Internet: research & communications. Critical thinking, Collaboration, Effective writing	Media critique project report (comparison).