Oklahoma Social Studies

United States Government

Practice Standards

1 Apply critical thinking skills to address authentic civic issues. USG.P.1

1 Demonstrate an understanding of the virtue of civil discourse to analyze and address real-world problems. USG.P.1.1

A Evaluate the impact of perspectives, civil discourse, and democratic principles on addressing civic issues. USG.P.1.1.A

B Engage in a range of deliberative and democratic processes to develop strategies to address authentic, real-world problems in community and out-of-school contexts. USG.P.1.1.B

C Gather and evaluate information regarding complex problems, assessing individual and collective actions taken to address them. USG.P.1.1.C

2 Develop practices which demonstrate an understanding that social studies involves the evaluation of evidence. USG.P.1.2

A Develop, investigate, and evaluate plausible answers to essential questions that reflect enduring understandings across time, real world circumstances, and social studies disciplines. USG.P.1.2.A

B Evaluate points of agreement and disagreement from reliable information and expert interpretations used to answer supporting questions related to content knowledge. USG.P.1.2.B

C Reinforce critical thinking by evaluating and challenging ideas and assumptions; analyzing and explaining inconsistencies in reasoning. USG.P.1.2.C

D Demonstrate understanding of content through the development of self-driven inquiries and the completion of multi-staged, authentic tasks and assessments. USG.P.1.2.D

2 Use interdisciplinary tools to acquire, apply, and evaluate content understanding of the four strands of social studies. USG.P.2

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1 Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of government, the benefits of democratic systems, and their responsibilities as citizens. USG.P.2.1

- A Evaluate various significant documents from the United States of America and other nations to compare civic virtues and principles of political systems. USG.P.2.1.A
- B Evaluate the impact of the structure and powers exercised by governmental systems on public policy, using historical and contemporary examples. USG.P.2.1.B
- C Analyze the impact of constitutions, laws, treaties, and international agreements, by comparing how various governmental powers and responsibilities have changed over time. USG.P.2.1.C

2 Develop skills which demonstrate an understanding of historical events and the people who shaped our history. USG.P.2.2

- A Gather and evaluate the usefulness of various formats of evidence for specific inquiry, analyzing the broader historical context, and assessing potential bias and credibility of sources. USG.P.2.2.A
- B Analyze complex and interacting factors that influence multiple perspectives during different historical eras and contemporary events. USG.P.2.2.B
- C Evaluate how multiple, complex events are shaped by unique circumstances of time and place; construct and interpret parallel timelines. USG.P.2.2.C

3 Demonstrate a mastery of geographic concepts and the use of geographic tools to understand the impact of geography on the past and present. USG.P.2.3

- A Actively engage in asking and answering geographic questions by acquiring, organizing, and analyzing multiple sources of data and information about the world's past and present. USG.P.2.3.A
- B Compare and analyze complex maps and mapping technologies to analyze spatial patterns of human and physical environments, explaining relationships between the environment and events, past and present. USG.P.2.3.B
- C Evaluate the extent to which political and economic decisions have had significant impact on human and physical environments of various places and regions. USG.P.2.3.C

4 Identify the principles of economic systems and develop an understanding of the benefits of a market system in local, national, and global settings. USG.P.2.4

- A Evaluate economic data from charts and graphs, noting trends and making predictions. USG.P.2.4.A
- B Construct arguments using a combination of evidence regarding solutions used by nations to address historical or contemporary economic issues. USG.P.2.4.B
- C Evaluate the impact, both intended and unintended, of government policies on market outcomes at national and global levels, past and present. USG.P.2.4.C

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ngage in critical, active reading of primary and secondary sources related to ocial studies concepts. USG.P.3

1 Comprehend, evaluate, and synthesize textual sources to acquire and refine knowledge in the social studies. USG.P.3.1

A Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, evaluating features such as author, date, and origin of information. USG.P.3.1.A

B Analyze information from visual, oral, digital, and interactive texts (e.g., maps, charts, images, political cartoons, videos, artwork) in order to draw conclusions and defend arguments. USG.P.3.1.B

2 Apply critical reading and thinking skills to interpret, evaluate, and respond to a variety of complex texts and perspectives. USG.P.3.2

A Evaluate the extent to which historical or cultural perspectives affect an author's stated or implied purpose. USG.P.3.2.A

B Evaluate the author's point of view, potential bias, and how authors can reach different conclusions regarding the same issue. USG.P.3.2.B

C Actively listen, evaluate, and analyze a speaker's message, asking questions while engaged in collaborative discussions about social studies topics and texts. USG.P.3.2.C

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4 Develop a variety of evidence-based written products designed for multiple purposes. USG.P.4

1 Summarize and paraphrase, integrate evidence, and cite sources to create written products, research projects, and presentations for multiple purposes related to social studies content. USG.P.4.1

A Compose informative essays and written products, developing a thesis, citing and incorporating evidence from multiple sources and maintaining an organized, formal structure. USG.P.4.1.A

B Compose argumentative written products, including a precise claim as distinguished from opposing claims, organizing logical reasoning, and providing credible evidence to develop an argument. USG.P.4.1.B

2 Engage in authentic research to acquire, refine, and share knowledge through written presentations and products. USG.P.4.2

A Develop self-generated theses or claims related to independent research and investigations using credible and relevant sources. USG.P.4.2.A

B Integrate quotes and summaries of research findings into written products while avoiding plagiarism. USG.P.4.2.B

C Construct presentations or products for a designated audience, using research and reasoning to enhance understanding of a topic or issue. USG.P.4.2.C

Content Standards

1 Compare the formation of contemporary governments in terms of access, use, and justification of power. USG.C.1

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Examine the purposes and functions of government, including the establishment of justice, promotion of general welfare, and liberty as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States. USG.C.1.1

2 Analyze the essential characteristics of limited versus unlimited systems of government. USG.C.1.2

A Compare historic and contemporary examples of unlimited systems of governments (e.g., monarchy, oligarchy, theocracy, autocracy) to examples of limited systems (e.g., direct democracy, constitutional republic, constitutional monarchy). USG.C.1.2.A

B Describe common characteristics of representative democracies (e.g., idea of natural rights and liberties, the rule of law, equality of all citizens under the law, majority rule with minority rights, the necessity of compromise). USG.C.1.2.B

3 Examine the founding principles of the United States of America's constitutional republic. USG.C.1.3

A Explain the principle of popular sovereignty which asserts that governments are created and sustained by the consent of the people who are the legitimate source of all political authority. USG.C.1.3.A

B Analyze how the United States of America's government reflects both a democracy and a republic. USG.C.1.3.B

C Explain how the Constitution of the United States of America reflects a balance between a concern for the public good and a concern for the protection of individual rights. USG.C.1.3.C

D Evaluate how religious traditions, moral philosophy, and enlightenment principles contributed to the development of key American founding ideas, such as natural rights, liberty, and limited government during the drafting of the Constitution of the United States. USG.C.1.3.D

4 Compare the advantages and disadvantages of ways in which governmental power can be distributed. USG.C.1.4

A Describe the structures of unitary, federal, and confederal systems, including contemporary examples of the presidential versus parliamentary systems. USG.C.1.4.A

B Compare structural differences in terms of effectiveness, prevention of abusive power, and responsiveness to the popular will. USG.C.1.4.B

5 Examine the role of government in a nation's economy. USG.C.1.5

A Compare the role of government in a market versus command economic systems. USG.C.1.5.A

B Describe the United States of America government's role in a market system including the promotion of competition, protection of private property and consumer rights, and access to public goods and services. USG.C.1.5.B

C Examine how government policies in a market system can be used to stabilize and stimulate economic growth. USG.C.1.5.C

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2 **Describe the historical and philosophical foundations of the republican system of government in the United States of America.** USG.C.2

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1 Evaluate the extent to which historical ideas and principles of human nature and authority have shaped the United States of America as a constitutional republic. USG.C.2.1

A Analyze the influence of historical documents regarding the concepts of limited government and popular sovereignty, including the Magna Carta and the Mayflower Compact. USG.C.2.1.A

B Analyze the influence of certain Biblical texts on founding documents such as the Constitution of the United States and the Declaration of Independence. USG.C.2.1.B

C Analyze colonial ideas on liberty, the practice of self-government, and the influence of religious thought on foundational documents (e.g., Massachusetts Body of Liberties, Fundamental Orders of Connecticut). USG.C.2.1.C

D Describe how Enlightenment philosophy contributed to the concept of a social contract, the existence of natural, inalienable rights (e.g., life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness). USG.C.2.1.D

E Examine the Declaration of Independence and its grievances to explain the principle of self-rule as based on the consent of the governed and as exercised through representative government. USG.C.2.1.E

2 Compare points of view toward the structure and powers of government as expressed during debates over ratification of the Constitution of the United States. USG.C.2.2

A Explain the general features of the Constitution of the United States of America as outlined by Alexander Hamilton in Federalist Paper No. 1 and by James Madison in Federalist Paper No. 10. USG.C.2.2.A

B Compare concerns regarding centralized government as expressed in essays by the Anti-Federalists, such as Brutus Essay 1 and George Mason's concerns regarding the lack of a national bill of rights. USG.C.2.2.B

C Explain concerns the Founders expressed regarding democracy. USG.C.2.2.C

D Analyze ways in which the Federalist and the Anti-Federalist debates about the nature and extent of government continue in modern times. USG.C.2.2.D

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3 **Analyze the fundamental principles of the American republic, as established in the Constitution of the United States of America.** USG.C.3

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1 Evaluate the necessity of a written constitution. USG.C.3.1

A Identify and describe the purposes for government as stated by the Framers in the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States of America. USG.C.3.1.A

B Analyze how the Constitution of the United States of America safeguards against authoritarianism by establishing enumerated powers, organizing government, and distributing powers among separate branches of government, the states, and the people. USG.C.3.1.B

C Explain why states have written constitutions and explain the relationship of state constitutions to the national constitution, including the guarantee "to every State in the Union a Republican form of Government" (Article IV, Section 4). USG.C.3.1.C

2 Examine how the Constitution may be considered a "living document" due to its clearly defined and intentionally rigorous amendment process, which requires both state and federal participation. USG.C.3.2

3 Analyze how the Framers designed a system of separated powers to prevent the concentration and potential abuse of power.. USG.C.3.3

A Describe and compare the scope of the powers vested to the Legislative Branch (Article 1), the Executive Branch (Article II), and the Judicial Branch (Article III) as related to the concept of separation of powers. USG.C.3.3.A

B Examine the necessity of a system of checks on government authority as explained by Madison in Federalist Paper No.51 and reflected by the claim "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition." USG.C.3.3.B

C Explain how the checks and balances system provides each branch of government with individual powers to affect other branches, preventing any one branch from becoming too powerful. USG.C.3.3.C

D Examine historical and contemporary examples of the system of checks and balances to illustrate the intent of the Framers and evaluate the effectiveness of the system. USG.C.3.3.D

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4 Analyze the system of federalism as established by the Constitution of the United States of America. USG.C.3.4

- A Define and identify the enumerated (expressed) powers found in Article I. USG.C.3.4.A
- B Describe how the “general welfare” clause and “necessary and proper” clause have empowered Congress with implied powers. USG.C.3.4.B
- C Identify powers denied to the national government versus those reserved to the states. USG.C.3.4.C
- D Describe the reasons why the Framers established concurrent powers, comparing examples exercised by both the national and state governments. USG.C.3.4.D
- E Explain how the Supremacy Clause (Article VI, Clause 2) establishes the Constitution of the United States of America and federal laws or treaties as the “supreme Law of the Land.” USG.C.3.4.E
- F Evaluate changes that have occurred in the relationship between the states and the national government over time (e.g., cooperative federalism versus new federalism/devolution). USG.C.3.4.F

5 Summarize and explain the relationships and responsibilities among the levels of government.. USG.C.3.5

- A Explain how local, state, and national governments are involved in cooperatively shaping public policy and responding to public policy issues. USG.C.3.5.A
- B Compare specific functions, organizations, and purposes of local and state governments, such as ensuring personal security and health regulations. USG.C.3.5.B
- C Explain the differences among the types of local governments in Oklahoma (e.g., county, city) as well as their operational relationship with the state government. USG.C.3.5.C
- D Describe how some state constitutions, such as Oklahoma’s, provide for more direct public involvement in the legislative process through such provisions as the initiative and referendum. USG.C.3.5.D

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6 Analyze the constitutional and legal status of Tribal governments within the federal system. USG.C.3.6

A Explain how the Constitution of the United States grants Congress authority over Indian affairs through the Commerce Clause and how the Supreme Court has defined Tribal Nations as “domestic dependent nations” possessing powers of self-government while operating under Federal Authority. Reference case: Cherokee Nation v. Georgia. USG.C.3.6.A

B Describe the trust relationship between the United States of America and Tribal governments, including the federal government’s legal obligations to protect Tribal lands, treaty rights, and resources. Students should understand that this relationship developed through treaties, legislation, and court decisions. USG.C.3.6.B

C Explain how Tribal governments exercise powers of self-government and participate in federal programs through legislation that allows Tribes to contract or compact with the federal government to administer services and programs. Key legislation teachers may reference: Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act. This law allows tribes to operate programs that were previously run directly by federal agencies. USG.C.3.6.C

D Examine how Tribal governments enter into agreements with states under federal law, including the role of state constitutions and legislatures in authorizing such agreements. Key law: Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. Students should understand: Congress authorized state and tribal compacts, states must have legal authority to enter those agreements, some states require constitutional amendments or legislative approval. This is particularly relevant in Oklahoma. USG.C.3.6.D

E Describe how Tribal jurisdiction and authority have evolved through federal legislation and Supreme Court decisions affecting criminal jurisdiction, family law, religious freedom, and other areas. Examples: Legislation: Major Crimes Act, Indian Child Welfare Act Court decisions: McGirt v. Oklahoma, Haaland v. Brackeen. USG.C.3.6.E

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4 Compare the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the United States of America's government as they address the needs of the public. USG.C.4

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1. Describe the scope and powers of the legislative branch of the federal government as delineated in Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America. USG.C.4.1
   - A. Compare the composition of the United States of America House to the United States of America Senate. USG.C.4.1.A
   - B. Identify the constitutional qualifications, terms of office, and compensation for members of the United States of America Congress, including change created by passage of the 17th and 27th Amendments. USG.C.4.1.B
   - C. Explain why the Framers established a bicameral legislative body and how the House of Representatives functions differently from the Senate. USG.C.4.1.C
   - D. Describe the leadership roles of the Speaker of the House, the Senate President Pro Tempore, and majority and minority leaders, including the responsibilities of major congressional committees. USG.C.4.1.D
2. Examine the scope and powers of the executive branch as delineated in Article II of the Constitution of the United States of America. USG.C.4.2
   - A. Identify the constitutional qualifications, term of office, and impeachment process for the President of the United States of America, including the impact of the 12th, 20th, 22nd, and 25th Amendments. USG.C.4.2.A
   - B. Compare the original intent of the Chief Executive's roles as described by Hamilton in Federalist Paper No.69 to the modern presidency. USG.C.4.2.B
   - C. Describe the function of executive departments and the federal bureaucracy, including the authority and influence of the President's Cabinet. USG.C.4.2.C
   - D. Examine the purpose of independent regulatory agencies (e.g., Federal Reserve, Securities and Exchange Commission). USG.C.4.2.D
   - E. Describe the growth of federal agencies during the 20th century, analyzing the constitutional and statutory bases for the delegation of powers to departments or agencies of the executive branch. USG.C.4.2.E
3. Explain the steps of the legislative process, including the authority, responsibilities, and influence of Congress, the President, and special interest groups, using examples from contemporary policy making and evaluating how the process reflects democratic principles of United States of America constitutional government. USG.C.4.3

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4 Describe the scope and powers of the federal judiciary as delineated in Article III of the Constitution. USG.C.4.4

A Explain the length of terms, selection and confirmation process, jurisdiction, and process for the removal of Supreme Court justices. USG.C.4.4.A

B Examine the Framers' intent regarding the judiciary's authority, including the principle of judicial review, as described by Hamilton in Federalist Paper No.78 and established in Marbury v. Madison. USG.C.4.4.B

C Examine the role of district courts, the courts of appeals, and the Supreme Court in regards to the judicial review process. USG.C.4.4.C

D Explain the importance of an independent judicial system as integral to the interpretation and defense of citizens' rights and liberties. USG.C.4.4.D

5 Analyze factors affecting the political process at the local, state, and national levels of government. USG.C.5

1 Analyze how citizens participate in our constitutional republic by voting in public elections and running for public office; describe factors that affect voter turnout, trends in voter turnout, and attempts to increase voter participation. USG.C.5.1

2 Compare political platforms of major contemporary political parties and describe how political parties influence both policymaking and the election of like-minded candidates to public office. USG.C.5.2

3 Trace the steps of the electoral process, including the roles of state caucuses and primaries, national conventions, and campaigns. USG.C.5.3

4 Describe the function and impact of political action committees on state and national elections, analyzing issues and decisions of significant court cases, such as Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. USG.C.5.4

5 Explain the function of the Electoral College, identifying different methods in which presidential electors are determined (e.g., split electoral vote versus winner-take-all). USG.C.5.5

6 Examine ongoing challenges to the election process, including redistricting and the practice of gerrymandering. USG.C.5.6

7 Describe the impact of the media, public opinion polls, and digital communications on the political process, including issues related to the influence of social media and the potential of artificial intelligence. USG.C.5.7

6 Explain how the Constitution of the United States of America preserves the equal protection of rights and liberties. USG.C.6

1 Evaluate the importance of the rule of law as the principle that all citizens and institutions are to be held accountable to the same laws and consequences. USG.C.6.1

2 Explain how the Constitution of the United States of America provides majority rule with equal protection for the rights of individuals of the minority. USG.C.6.2

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3 Examine the traditions and historical documents which have contributed to the American concepts of rights and liberties (e.g., English Bill of Rights, Virginia Declaration of Rights, Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom). USG.C.6.3

4 Analyze the civil rights and civil liberties affirmed and guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. USG.C.6.4

- A Explain how individual liberties are essential to the functioning of the United States of America constitutional republic society. USG.C.6.4.A
- B Examine how liberty and private property have contributed to economic opportunity and prosperity in the United States of America. USG.C.6.4.B
- C Identify basic rights, liberties, and protections of due process protected by the Bill of Rights and subsequent constitutional amendments. USG.C.6.4.C
- D Explain how the Bill of Rights protects individuals from abuse by the national government and explain the extent that protections have been applied to the states through the "doctrine of selective incorporation" established by the 14th Amendment. USG.C.6.4.D

5 Describe the concept of American exceptionalism and examine arguments that the United States of America has played a distinctive role in promoting political liberty, economic development, and innovation. USG.C.6.5

6 Explain how freedom of expression is an essential element of a constitutional republic by examining historic landmark Supreme Court decisions which have addressed and clarified individual rights under the First Amendment (e.g., Gitlow v. New York, Brandenburg v. Ohio, New York Times v. United States, and Texas v. Johnson). USG.C.6.6

7 Analyze how the First Amendment protects religious freedom through both the Free Exercise Clause and the Establishment Clause by examining landmark Supreme Court decisions including free exercise cases (e.g., West Virginia v. Barnette, Wisconsin v. Yoder), Establishment Clause cases (e.g., Engel v.Vitale, Lee v. Weisman), and cases addressing the tension between these clauses (e.g., Kennedy v. Bremerton School District). USG.C.6.7

8 Explain why due process rights are essential for the protection of individual rights and the maintenance of limited government by examining landmark Supreme Court cases which have specified due process rights over time (e.g., Mapp v. Ohio, Gideon v. Wainwright, Miranda v. Arizona, and Furman v. Georgia). USG.C.6.8

9 Describe how significant issues in American society have been addressed by examining landmark decisions (e.g., Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, McDonald v. City of Chicago, and Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health). USG.C.6.9

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7 **Analyze the processes and implementation of public policy in the United States of America.** USG.C.7

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1 Explain how domestic policy is developed and implemented. USG.C.7.1

A Identify and explain powers that the Constitution of the United States of America grants to the President and Congress to develop and carry out domestic policy. USG.C.7.1.A

B Trace the budget process, including the impact of government shutdowns and risks from the national debt, explaining how economic trade-offs occur when addressing competing public needs. USG.C.7.1.B

C Identify the types and purposes of taxation that are used by local, state, and federal governments to fund public services. USG.C.7.1.C

D Examine how the government can influence the stability and growth of the economy through fiscal and monetary policy. USG.C.7.1.D

2 Evaluate the role of the national government in formulating and carrying out foreign policy. USG.C.7.2

A Explain different philosophies nations pursue to protect their self-interests abroad, such as isolationism and internationalism. USG.C.7.2.A

B Explain why and how the United States of America pursues its national interest and to what extent the pursuit of national interest harmonizes with the pursuit of American ideals. USG.C.7.2.B

C Identify and explain powers that the Constitution of the United States of America gives to the President and Congress to conduct foreign affairs. USG.C.7.2.C

D Describe the tools used to carry out United States of America's foreign policy, including diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, humanitarian aid, treaties, sanctions, and military intervention. USG.C.7.2.D

E Explain the government's role regarding national defense, trade, and humanitarian efforts by examining contemporary commitments to international organizations and alliances. USG.C.7.2.E

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8 **Evaluate the significance of civic participation in order to ensure the preservation of constitutional government.** USG.C.8

1 Explain the constitutional and legal provisions that establish and affect citizenship, including the naturalization process and the concept of dual citizenship as it applies to Tribal citizens. USG.C.8.1

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2 Define civic virtue and explain the individual's duty and responsibility to participate in civic life. USG.C.8.2

- A Distinguish among the civic life, political life, and private life of citizens. USG.C.8.2.A
- B Examine how components of civil society (e.g., active communities, individual self-reliance, ethics, religion) contribute to the maintenance of limited government in a representative and democratic republic. USG.C.8.2.B
- C Explain how civic virtue and a shared American civic identity are achieved through the deliberation about the meaning and application of our Founding documents. USG.C.8.2.C
- D Describe the right to vote as a cornerstone of a constitutional republic and the most direct way for citizens to participate in government. USG.C.8.2.D
- E Examine other political rights and responsibilities of citizens, including registering to vote, running for office, serving on juries, and participating in political campaigns. USG.C.8.2.E
- F Identify responsibilities of both citizens and residents of the United States of America, including obedience of the law, registration for the selective service, and payment of state and federal taxes prior to the annual deadline. USG.C.8.2.F

3 Analyze how our system of government provides citizens with opportunities to monitor and influence government as a means to hold elected officials accountable. USG.C.8.3

- A Explain how the Constitution protects the individual's ability to engage in informed public discourse as a means to monitor government officials and institutions. USG.C.8.3.A
- B Identify legal methods to advocate and influence policy (e.g., voting, peaceful protests, petitioning, contacting government officials, use of the Freedom of Information Act). USG.C.8.3.B