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American Government in Action

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High Impact Fellows Project Overview

Project Title, Course Name, Grade Level

Project Title: American Government in Action

Course Name: Government

Course Description and Objectives:

US Government is a semester course that incorporates the structure, organization, and function of the American political system. Topics studied include: foundations of U.S. government, the three major branches of government, and the Constitution. Students will study the details of the political system at the national, state, and local levels. Comparisons will be made between American government and other political systems.

This class is an Honors level course and it is recommended that students choosing to take Honors Government also have an Honors English placement or higher. Students in this course will not be simply memorizing vocabulary, names, dates and places but will be expected to analyze and synthesize the material covered. We will be looking at cause and effect and working to understand and predict political movements and trends.

Team Members

Student(s): *Lea Elizabeth Allen*

High School Teacher: *Mary Ford*

School: Southside High School

Wofford Faculty: *Cindy Suarez*

Department: Education

Brief Description of Project (<150 words)

This AVD project will focus on the development of student-centered learning activities and instructional strategies for a secondary government and economics teacher, Mary Ford, at Southside High School in Greenville, SC. The materials were created to provide more opportunity for students to be involved in their own learning process, analyze primary sources, and participate in self-guided learning in an effort for Government and Economics to be understood by students with varying interests and learning styles. This project was completed in three separate sections which each provide diverse lessons and address varying standards. The first section contains multi-purpose supplementary materials for the classroom as well as an interactive lesson utilizing Political Cartoons. The second section contains lessons analyzing primary sources as well as artwork and can be used within a unit on the Legislative Branch of Government in the US. The third section includes case studies of amendments to the Constitution of the United States. For this third activity each student will receive a modified court case pertaining to one of the Amendments to the Constitution. Students are to review their court case and submit in writing which Amendment they believe the case deals with.

High Impact Fellows Project Overview

List of Materials Required and Costs, if Applicable

All materials needed are provided electronically