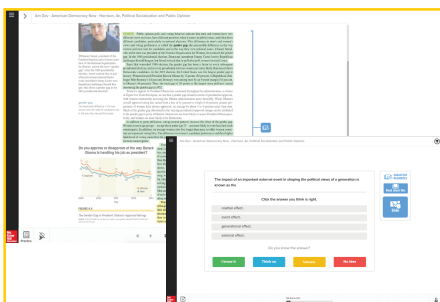


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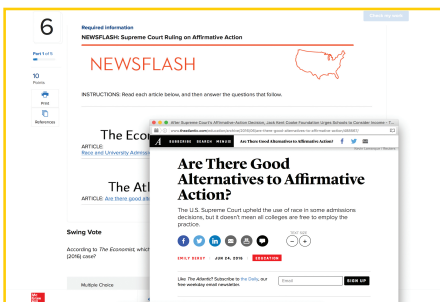
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Connect Government is an application-based assignment platform containing engaging, user-friendly tools that help students better understand and connect with the concepts and language used in the American Government course. Political Scientists have reported deeper critical thinking, improved student performance, and increased classroom efficiency as a result of using Connect Government, which includes innovative tools that are often auto-gradable, such as:



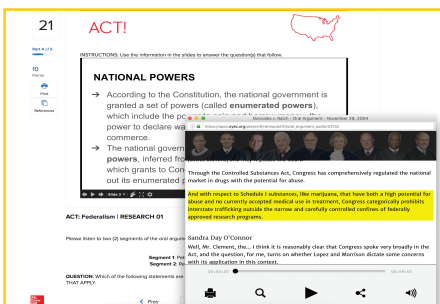
SmartBook®

Described as a “textbook for the 21st century” by a political scientist, SmartBook gives students a road map to success through an adaptive reading experience that changes the way students read. It creates a personalized, interactive reading environment by highlighting important concepts, while helping students identify their strengths and weaknesses. This ensures that he or she is focused on the content needed to close specific knowledge gaps, while it simultaneously promotes long-term learning.



NewsFlash

Responding to the need for currency in the American Government course, this new Connect assignment pairs fresh content on a rolling basis with auto-grade questions that allow instructors to assess student understanding of the important news of the day.



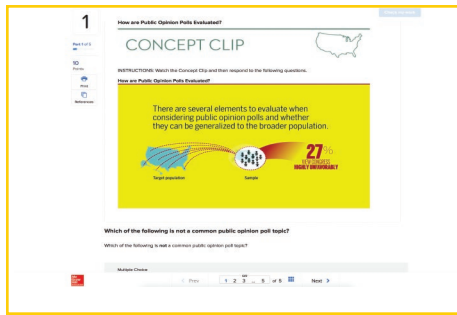
Applied Critical Thinking

Nicknamed ACT!, these new activities encourage students to apply critical thinking skills to core course content through political research and reflection. First, students assess their understanding of content, then gather applicable political research, and lastly, critically reflect on the results.



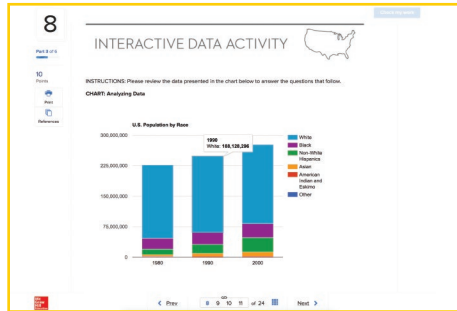
Practice Government Missions

Practice Government, McGraw-Hill’s educational game focused on the American political system, can now be played inside of Connect American Government! Two introductory missions have now been paired with auto-grade and critical thinking questions that harness the power of “learning by doing” right within Connect. Additional missions are available through mhpractice.com.



Concept Clips

Expanded to now include audio, Concept Clips are engaging videos that walk students through the more difficult concepts in the American government course (such as the Electoral College, Supreme Court procedures, or how to evaluate a public opinion poll).



Interactive Data Analysis

Help your students consume political data in a meaningful way. Students in the American Government course now have the ability to interact with political data visualizations to gain insight into important factors that shape our political process. Students can review electoral turnout over time or contemplate how demographic shifts in the American population will impact future elections. These interactive charts and maps are paired with auto-grade and critical thinking questions to enhance student understanding.



87%
of college students report that access to learning analytics can positively impact their learning experience.



75%
of students using adaptive technology report that it is “very helpful” or “extremely helpful” in aiding their ability to retain new concepts.

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– Nathan Herrmann, Oklahoma State University

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– Madeline Uretsky, Simmons College

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– Sophia Garcia, Tarrant County College



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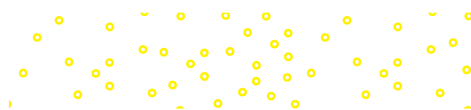
SIXTH EDITION

JOSEPH LOSCO

Ball State University and Loyola University Chicago

RALPH BAKER

State College of Florida





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Brief Contents

- 1 Citizenship: In Our Changing Democracy 1
- 2 The Constitution: The Foundation of Citizens' Rights 16
- 3 Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power 41
- 4 Civil Liberties: Citizens' Rights Versus Security 67
- 5 Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry 102
- 6 Public Opinion 135
- 7 Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices 160
- 8 Interest Groups in America 186
- 9 Parties and Political Campaigns: Putting Democracy into Action 213
- 10 Media: Tuning in or Tuning Out 240
- 11 Congress: Doing the People's Business 271
- 12 The Presidency: Power and Paradox 307
- 13 Bureaucracy: Citizens as Owners and Consumers 342
- 14 The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting 365
- 15 Public Policy: Responding to Citizens 392
- 16 Foreign and Defense Policy: Protecting American Interests in the World 414



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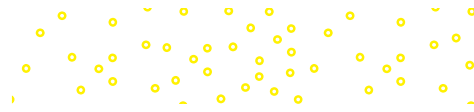


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Contents



1 Citizenship: In Our Changing Democracy 1

Millennials: You're in Charge Now. Where Will You Take Us? 1

POLITICS, POWER, AND PARTICIPATION 3

Types of Government 4

Political Power 5

Participation and Democracy 6

AMERICAN POLITICAL IDEALS 8

THE CHANGING FACE OF THE AMERICAN CITIZENRY 9

Growing Diversity 10

Growing Older 10

Growing Apart 11

THE FUTURE OF CITIZENSHIP 13

2 The Constitution: The Foundation of Citizens' Rights 16

Our Constitution: Time for a Change? 16

THE FOUNDATIONS OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY 18

Early Colonization 18

The Colonists Respond to Economic Pressures 19

Colonists Mobilize for Action: The Continental Congress 20

Declaration of Independence 20

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THE BIRTH OF A NATION 21

The Articles of Confederation: A Document Whose Time Had Come and Gone 21

The Road to Philadelphia 23

Constitutional Convention 23

Regional Tensions: Slavery and the Three-Fifths Compromise 24

CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES 26

Liberal Democratic Principles 26

Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances 26

Federalism 27

CONSTITUTIONAL CONSTRUCTION 28

THE FIGHT FOR RATIFICATION 29

Antifederalist Opposition 29

The Battle in the States 30

Making Good on a Promise: The Bill of Rights 32

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE 33

Amending the Constitution 34

Institutional Adaptation 34

Judicial Review 36

Expanding the Franchise 36

THE CONSTITUTION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 38

3 Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power 41

At Odds Over Immigration 41

THE DIVISION OF POWER 43

Prevailing Models for Dispersing Power 43

The Federalist Solution 44

THE EVOLUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS 46

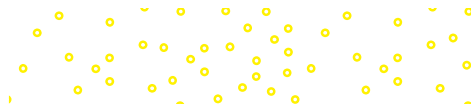
The National Government Asserts Itself: 1789–1832 46

Dual Federalism, Disunion, and War: 1832–1865 48

Federalism in the Age of Commerce: 1865–1932 48

The New Deal and the Growth of National Power: 1932–1937 49





- Cooperative Federalism: 1937–1960s 50
- Creative Federalism: 1960s–1970s 51
- New Federalism and the Devolution of Power: 1980–Present 52

FEDERAL–STATE RELATIONS 54

- Fiscal Relations 55
- Political Relations 56
- Constitutional Issues 58

INTERSTATE RELATIONS 61

- Cooperation and Competition 61
- Innovation in the States 62

FEDERALISM AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 64

4 Civil Liberties: Citizens’ Rights Versus Security 67

Civil Liberties Versus Civil Rights: A Sweet Dispute 67

HERITAGE OF RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES 69

- The Constitution and Rights 69
- The Bill of Rights 69
- Incorporation 69
- The Modern Emphasis on Rights 71

FREEDOM OF RELIGION 71

- Free Exercise Clause 72
- Congress and Religious Freedom 73

- Establishment Clause 73
- Religion and Public Schools 75
- Religious Use of Public School Facilities and Funds 76
- Prayer in School 76
- Aid to Religious Schools 76
- Government Endorsement of Religion 77

FREEDOM OF SPEECH 77

- Political Speech 78
- Campaign Speech 79
- Commercial Speech 80
- Symbolic Speech 80
- Boundaries of Free Speech 81
- Obscenity 81
- Defamation 82
- Hate Speech 82

FREEDOM OF THE PRESS 83

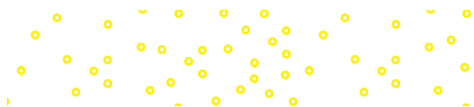
- Prior Restraint 83
- Government Control of Media Content 84
- Special Rights 84

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND ASSOCIATION 85

- Freedom of Assembly 85
- Freedom of Association 86

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RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS 87

RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED 88

- The Fourth Amendment: Searches and Seizures 89
- The Fifth Amendment: Self-Incrimination 90
- The Sixth Amendment: Right to Counsel 91
- The Sixth Amendment: Trial by Jury 92
- The Eighth Amendment: Cruel and Unusual Punishment 93

RIGHT TO PRIVACY 96

- Abortion 96
- The Right to Die 97

CIVIC LIBERTIES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 99

5 Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry 102

Sexual Assaults on College Campuses 102

AFRICAN AMERICANS AND CIVIL RIGHTS 105

- Slavery 105
- Dred Scott 106

The Civil War and Reconstruction 107

Segregation 108

Voting Barriers 108

NAACP 109

Modern Era of Civil Rights 109

Civil Rights Mobilization 110

Civil Rights Legislation 111

Retrospective 112

INTERPRETING EQUALITY 113

Judicial Tests 113

Affirmative Action 114

Racial Classifications 114

Current Impact on Education 115

Continuing Controversy 116

OTHER MINORITY GROUPS 117

Native Americans 118

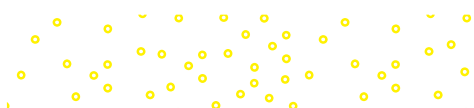
Hispanic Americans 118

Asian Americans 119

Disabled Americans 121



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American Seniors 121

Gay and Lesbian Americans 122

WOMEN AND CIVIL RIGHTS 126

Early Women's Movement: 1840–1875 126

The Suffrage Movement: 1890–1920 126

The Second Women's Rights Movement: 1961–Present 127

Current Issues 128

CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 133

6 Public Opinion 135

Changing Tides of Public Opinion 135

UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC OPINION IN THE CONTEXT OF AMERICAN POLITICS 137

The Nature of Public Opinion 137

Changes in Assessing and Using Public Opinion 138

HOW POLITICAL OPINIONS ARE FORMED 139

The Process of Socialization 139

Agents of Political Socialization 140

GROUP DIFFERENCES IN POLITICAL OPINIONS 143

Racial and Ethnic Identity 143

Gender 144

Geography 145

MEASURING PUBLIC OPINION 146

Dimensions of Public Opinion 146

Types of Polls 147

POLLING TECHNIQUES 147

Who Is Asked? Selecting the Sample 149

What Is Asked? Paying Attention to the
Questions 151

THE CONTENT OF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION 151

Political Knowledge 151

Confidence in Government Institutions 152

Trust in Government 153

Political Efficacy 153



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Support for Democratic Values 154

Political Ideologies 154

PUBLIC OPINION AND PUBLIC POLICY 156

PUBLIC OPINION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 157

7 Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices 160

Millennials Rising 160

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: OPPORTUNITIES, COSTS, AND BENEFITS 162

CHARACTERISTICS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION 163

Amount of Information Conveyed 164

Variation in Frequency and Strength of Messages
Conveyed 164

INGREDIENTS FOR INVOLVEMENT 165

Access to Resources 165

Political Engagement 167

Mobilization 169

VOTING 170

Who Votes? 170

Who Doesn't? And Why? 171

VOTERS IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS: HOW AMERICANS DECIDE 174

- Party Choice 174
- Issues 175
- Candidate Characteristics 177

OTHER FORMS OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION 177

- Beyond Voting: Activities That Require More Time 178
- Beyond Voting: Activities That Require More Skill 181
- Beyond Voting: Activities That Require Money 181

THE IMPACT OF PARTICIPATION PATTERNS ON POLICY 182

PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 183

8 Interest Groups in America 186

The National Rifle Association and the Status Quo 186

ORGANIZED INTERESTS: WHO ARE THEY? 189

- Neighbors or Adversaries? 189
- Distinctive Features 189

THE ROOTS OF INTEREST GROUP POLITICS IN AMERICA 190

- Interest Groups on the Rise 190
- The Advocacy Explosion 191

WHOSE INTERESTS ARE REPRESENTED? 192

- Who Has the Numbers? 192
- Who Has the Money? 193
- Whose Interests Are Not Represented? 193

WHY JOIN? 195

- Monetary Incentives 195
- Social Incentives 195
- Idealist Incentives 196
- Assessing Motives 196

INTEREST GROUP STRATEGIES 196

LOBBYING AND OTHER TACTICS 198

- Lobbying 198
- Financing Campaigns 202
- Accessing the Courts 206
- Grassroots Mobilization 207
- Coalition Formation 208
- Protests 209

INTEREST GROUPS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 210

9 Parties and Political Campaigns: Putting Democracy into Action 213

Separate Tables, Please 213

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ELECTORAL POLITICS 214

- The Nature of Parties in America 215
- Why Two Parties? 215

GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF OUR TWO-PARTY SYSTEM 217

- The Evolution of American Political Parties: Five Party Systems 218
- Shifting Tides: 1968 to Present 220



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Party Realignment 221
Parties Today: Poles Apart 222

BUILT TO WIN: PARTY STRUCTURE 223

National Committees 223
Congressional and Senatorial Campaign
Committees 226
State Committees 226
Local Party Organizations 227
Working Together 227

**THIRD PARTIES AND INDEPENDENT
CANDIDACIES 228**

CANDIDATES AND ELECTORAL POLITICS 230

Show Me the Money 230
Where Does All the Money Go? 232
Candidates and the Parties 233
Party and Candidate: Working Together but the Candidate
Is in Charge 235

**PARTIES, POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS, AND
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 237**

**10 Media: Tuning in or
Tuning Out 240**

How to Restore Confidence 240

EVOLVING CIVIC LIFE AND MEDIA CHANGES 243

Early Days 243
Partisan Press 243
Penny Press 243
Yellow Journalism 244
Broadcast Media 245
The Media Today 246

THE MEDIA ENVIRONMENT IN AMERICA 248

Private Ownership 249
Government Regulation 249
Ownership Limits 249
Content Regulation 250
Emphasis on Entertainment 250
Adversarial Journalism 251
Political Bias? 252



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MEDIA AND POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS 254

- Free Media 254
- Presidential Debates 255
- Paid Media 257
- The Internet 257
- Game Coverage 260
- Character Issues: Probing Personal Lives 260
- Election Night Coverage 261

GOVERNMENT COVERAGE IN THE MEDIA 261

- Covering the President 262
- Covering Congress 264
- Covering the Supreme Court 265

THE MEDIA AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 266

11 Congress: Doing the People's Business 271

Last Man Standing? 271

ORIGIN AND POWERS OF CONGRESS 272

CIVIC LIFE AND CONGRESSIONAL CHANGE 274

- Building the Institution 274
- The Era of Reform 275
- The Resurgent Executive Branch 275
- The Rights Revolution and Partisan Polarization 276

GETTING ELECTED 277

- Resources 277
- The Incumbency Factor 277
- Midterm Elections 278
- Redistricting 279

DOING THE JOB: RESPONSIBILITIES AND BENEFITS 281

- Representing the People 281
- Pay and Perks 283
- Keeping in Touch with Voters: Home-Style Politics 284

WORKING WITH OTHERS 284

- Dealing with Organized Interests 285
- Personal Staff 286
- Professional Congressional Committee and Agency Staff 286
- Colleagues 286
- Getting Along 288

KEYS TO POLITICAL POWER: PARTY, POSITION, PROCEDURES 288

- Party 288
- Position 289
- Procedures 295

EXERCISING CONGRESSIONAL POWER 296

- Lawmaking 296
- Declaring War 299
- Impeachment 300
- Investigation and Oversight 300
- Budgeting 301
- Senatorial Powers 302

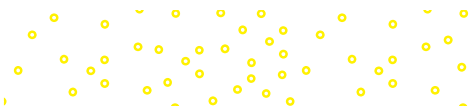
CONGRESS AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 304

12 The Presidency: Power and Paradox 307

The Unprecedented President 307

ORIGIN AND POWERS OF THE PRESIDENCY 308

- Constitutional Provisions 309
- Crafting the Office: From Washington to Roosevelt 309
- The Modern Presidency 310



THE PATH TO THE PRESIDENCY 311

GETTING ELECTED 311

- Fundraising 311
- Primary Sweepstakes 313
- Party Conventions 314
- The General Election 315

PRESIDENTIAL POWER 319

- Chief Executive 320
- Commander in Chief 323
- Chief Diplomat 324
- Chief of State 325
- Lawmaker 327

PRESIDENTIAL ROLES 330

- Party Leader 330
- Economic Leader 330
- Opinion Leader 330

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH 331

- Cabinet 332
- Executive Office of the President 333

PRESIDENTIAL STYLE 336

ASSESSING PRESIDENTIAL POWER AND ITS LIMITS 337

THE VICE PRESIDENCY 338

THE PRESIDENCY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 340

13 Bureaucracy: Citizens as Owners and Consumers 342

Student Loans, Debt, and Bureaucracy 342

BUREAUCRATIC CHANGES AND EVOLVING CIVIC LIFE 345

- Growth of Bureaucracy 345
- The Early Bureaucracy 346
- The Reform Era 347
- Bureaucracy Today 347

THE NATURE OF BUREAUCRACY 348

FEDERAL BUREAUCRATS AND THEIR WORK 349

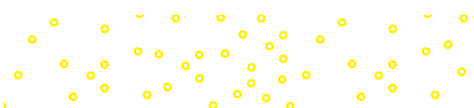
- Who Are They? 349
- What Do They Do? 351
- Organization of the Federal Bureaucracy 352

SOURCES OF BUREAUCRATIC POWER 357

- External Support 357
- Expertise and Discretion 357
- Longevity and Vitality 358
- Leadership 358



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CONTROLLING BUREAUCRATIC POWER 359

- Congressional Controls 359
- Presidential Controls 359
- Judicial Controls 362
- Whistle-Blowing 363

THE BUREAUCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 363

14 The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting 365

The Tortuous Selection of a Supreme Court Justice 365

NATIONAL COURT STRUCTURE 367

- District Courts 367
- United States Courts of Appeals 368
- United States Supreme Court 369
- Specialized Courts 369

NATURE OF THE JUDICIAL PROCESS 369

- Common Law 369
- Judicial Review 370
- Civil and Criminal Law 370
- Judicial Requirements 371
- Real Cases and Controversies 372

CHANGING NATURE OF THE SUPREME COURT 373

- The Early Court 373
- The Court, Business, and Social Welfare 374
- The Court and Personal Rights 374

SUPREME COURT DECISION MAKING 374

- Agenda Decisions 375
- Voting Decisions 376
- Explaining Decisions 378
- Implementing Decisions 378
- Understanding Decisions 379

SUPREME COURT SELECTION 381

- Nomination 381
- Nomination Criteria 382
- Senate Confirmation 384

LOWER COURT SELECTION 385

THE JUDICIARY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 388

15 Public Policy: Responding to Citizens 392

The Widening Gap 392

THE NATURE AND SCOPE OF PUBLIC POLICY 393

POLICYMAKING AND EVALUATION 394

- Problem Recognition 394
- Agenda Setting 394
- Policy Formation 395
- Policy Adoption 395
- Policy Implementation 395
- Policy Evaluation 396
- Explaining Policy Outcomes 396

DOMESTIC POLICY 397

- Protecting the Environment 397
- Helping the Poor and the Elderly 401

ECONOMIC POLICY 404

- Fiscal Policy 405
- Monetary Policy 408
- Global Economic Policy 411

PUBLIC POLICY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 412

16 Foreign and Defense Policy: Protecting American Interests in the World 414

Flight and Fight 414

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE 415

- Finding Our Place in the World 416
- Becoming an International Power 416
- The Nuclear Age 417
- The Growing Threat of Terrorism 419

DEFENDING U.S. INTERESTS IN A CONSTANTLY CHANGING WORLD 420

- Defining National Interests 420
- Understanding Nation-State Dynamics: Foreign Policy
Theories 421

MAKING FOREIGN POLICY 421

- The Primacy of the Executive Branch 422
- Congress's Role 425
- Other Actors 426
- The Public's Role 427

TOOLS OF FOREIGN POLICY 427

- Military Power 427
- Diplomacy 429
- Foreign Aid 429
- Working with International Partners 430

CONFRONTING THE FUTURE 431

- The Nuclear Threat 432
- The Terrorist Threat 433
- Threats Posed by Regional Conflicts 434
- The Rise of China 436

FOREIGN POLICY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TODAY 437

Appendices

The Constitution of the United States of America 439

The Declaration of Independence

Federalist Paper No. 10 (James Madison)

Federalist Paper No. 51 (James Madison)

All Appendices assignable online in Connect.

Glossary 455

Endnotes 465

Index 483



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What's in *AM GOV*



*Ralph Baker, State College of Florida, and Joseph Losco, Ball State University and Loyola University Chicago.
Courtesy of Ball State University*

AM GOV was created with one simple premise in mind: Students will learn only if the content is engaging and current, if the design is visually attractive, and if the price is affordable.

With this premise in mind, we, the authors, set out to discover from you—students and faculty—how best to create a program that students would read and faculty would eagerly assign. We interviewed dozens of faculty and hundreds of students at colleges throughout the country. Students told us they wanted resources with innovative visual appeal, interactive digital technology, an integrated approach, and relevant content designed according to the way they learn. Instructors told us they wanted a way to engage their students without compromising on high-quality content.

We listened. The result is *AM GOV*, an American government program that started a revolution. Our goal in *AM GOV* is to engage students in the story of people's relationship to government and how an active and informed

citizenry is essential in making democracy meaningful. We want students to recognize how their choices about government affect their lives.

AM GOV marries our commitment to scholarly content with the value that currency, presentation, adaptive technology, and reasonable price have for students. Frequent updates of both political events and scholarship keep the program vital and relevant. We gave *AM GOV* this visually rich design because our research taught us that, in our visual culture, it makes student learning excel and American government memorable. Students even gave *AM GOV* its name.

And we continue to listen. Using the latest technology to track student usage and comprehension, *AM GOV* pinpoints those content areas students find most challenging with heat maps. This technology is used to help us rework presentations to make the material more comprehensible and meaningful to students. Available adaptive technologies, like LearnSmart® and SmartBook®, put students in control of the learning experience, allowing them to learn from peer responses and create a personal reading experience that's all their own.

You started *AM GOV*. You convinced us that there had to be a better way to get across the fundamental concepts of American democracy and what it means to be an American citizen.

We listened. And we continue to learn from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Losco".

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ralph Baker".

About the Authors

Joseph Losco is professor emeritus of political science at Ball State University, director emeritus of the Bowen Center for Public Affairs, and currently adjunct professor of political science at Loyola University of Chicago. He teaches courses in political theory and American government. Losco has published in the areas of public policy and political theory. His publications include *Political Theory: Classic and Contemporary Readings* (Oxford University Press) and *Human Nature and Politics*, co-edited with Albert Somit (JAI Press). At the Bowen Center, Losco founded and directed the annual Hoosier Survey of public opinion and shared responsibility for the Voting System Technical Oversight Program (VSTOP), which conducts voting system studies for the Indiana secretary of state. His research has been funded by grants from the Pew Charitable Trusts and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission. He serves as consultant to VSTOP and as an expert in voting system technology. Losco received his B.A. and M.A. from Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. from Temple University. He has been married to his wife Marcia for over 40 years and has a son, Michael, who practices international arbitration law in New York City.

Ralph Baker is an adjunct professor of political science at the State College of Florida, where he teaches Introduction to American Government courses. Before moving to Florida, he was a political science professor at Ball State University, specializing in American government, constitutional law, constitutional liberties, judicial politics, criminal justice policy, and media and politics. Raised in central Illinois, he attended Bradley University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Illinois for his M.A. and Ph.D.

He is the author of numerous books and articles, including *The Criminal Justice Game*, *Evaluating Alternative Law Enforcement Policies*, *Determinants of Law Enforcement Policies*, *State Policy Problems*, and *Women Government Officials in Indiana* and articles concerning the Supreme Court, gender policy, the chilly climate in academia, media and politics, and police professionalism. With Joe Losco, Baker produced over twenty political science videos that resulted in *Telly Awards* for “The 1996 Campaign,” “The 2000 Campaign,” and an *Axiem Award* for “Case Studies in American Government.” At Ball State University, Baker won the Outstanding Teacher Award and served several terms as the president of the Indiana Political Science Association.

Foundational Content and

AM GOV is a **relatable, informative, and visual** introduction to American politics. Designed with **today's students** in mind, *AM GOV* is a **concise, magazine style** program that teaches students *how to think critically, and politically*. With an emphasis on current events, *AM GOV* engages its readers through **approachable content** and **digital tools** that are proven to help students better understand and connect with the concepts and language used in the American government course.

Better Data, Smarter Revision, Improved Results

Students helped inform the revision strategy:

STEP 1. Over the course of three years, data points showing concepts that caused students the most difficulty were anonymously collected from McGraw-Hill Education's Connect® American Government's SmartBook for *AM GOV*.

STEP 2. The data from SmartBook was provided to the authors in the form of a **heat map**, which graphically illustrated “hot spots” in the text that impacted student learning (see image to left).

STEP 3. The authors used the **heat map** data to refine the content and reinforce student comprehension in the new edition. Additional quiz questions and assignable activities were created for use in Connect American Government to further support student success.

RESULT: Because the **heat map** gave the authors empirically based feedback at the paragraph and even sentence level, they were able to develop the new edition using precise student data that pinpointed concepts that caused students the most difficulty.

Heat map data also inform the activities and assessments in Connect American Government, McGraw-Hill Education's assignable and assessable learning platform. Where the heat map data show students struggle with specific learning objectives or concepts, we created new Connect assets—Concept Clips, Applied Critical Thinking (ACT), and NewsFlash current event activities—to provide another avenue for students to learn and master the content.

Fueled by LearnSmart, SmartBook is the first and only adaptive reading experience currently available.



Make It Effective. SmartBook creates a personalized reading experience by highlighting the most impactful concepts a student needs to learn at that moment in time. This ensures that every minute spent with SmartBook is returned to the student as the most value added minute possible.

Make It Informed. The reading experience continuously adapts by highlighting content based on what the student knows and doesn't know. Real-time reports quickly identify the concepts that require more attention from individual students—or the entire class. SmartBook detects the content a student is most likely to forget and brings it back to improve long-term knowledge retention.

New to this edition, SmartBook is now optimized for mobile and tablet and is accessible for students with disabilities. And as part of any American government



Digital Tools Designed for Today's Student

course, SmartBook now focuses on the broader context for and building blocks of the political system. Specifically, it has been enhanced with improved learning objectives to ensure that students gain foundational knowledge while also learning to make connections for broader understanding of government institutions, events, and behavior. SmartBook personalizes learning to individual student needs, continually adapting to pinpoint knowledge gaps and focus learning on topics that need the most attention. Study time is more productive and, as a result, students are better prepared for class and coursework. For instructors, SmartBook tracks student progress and provides insights that can help guide teaching strategies.

Informing and Engaging Students on American Government Concepts

Using Connect American Government, students can learn the course material more deeply and study more effectively than ever before.

At the *remember* and *understand* levels of Bloom's taxonomy, **Concept Clips** help students break down key concepts in American government. Using easy-to-understand audio narration, visual cues, and colorful animations, Concept Clips provide a step-by-step presentation that aids in student retention. New Concept Clips for this edition include the following:

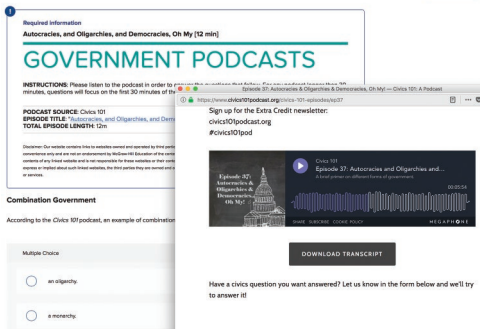
- What are the Types of Government?
- Federalists and Antifederalists
- What is Devolution?
- Regulation of the Media
- Who Participates?
- Presidency: Going Public
- U.S. Foreign Policy

In addition to the concept-based clips, the new edition also offers several skills-based clips that equip students for work within and outside the classroom. These skills-based clips include the following:

- Evaluating the News
- Critical Thinking
- How to Read a Court Case
- How to Understand Charts and Graphs
- Political Cartoons
- How to Avoid Plagiarism

Also at the *remember* and *understand* levels of Bloom's, **NewsFlash** exercises tie current news stories to key American government concepts and learning objectives. After interacting with a contemporary news story, students are assessed on their ability to make the connections between real-life events and

The screenshot shows a digital interface for a 'CONCEPT CLIP' titled 'How are Public Opinion Polls Evaluated?'. The interface includes a navigation sidebar on the left with a '1' icon, 'Part 1 of 5', 'Home', 'Print', and 'References' options. The main content area features a yellow background with a diagram showing a 'Target population' (represented by a blue wavy line) and a 'Sample' (represented by a cluster of black dots). A red arrow points from the sample to a '27%' statistic, with the text '75% MORE UNRELIABLE' below it. The text on the yellow background reads: 'There are several elements to evaluate when considering public opinion polls and whether they can be generalized to the broader population.' Below the diagram, there are two multiple-choice questions: 'Which of the following is not a common public opinion poll topic?' and 'Which of the following is not a common public opinion poll topic?'. The interface also includes a 'Multiple Choice' section with a 'Next' button and a progress indicator showing '1 2 3 ... 5 of 5'.



course content. Examples include the 2018 midterm election results, 2017 tax reform legislation, and trade tariffs.

Deepen understanding of how politics happens in the real world by leveraging the most popular podcasts available with our new **Podcast Assignments**. These assignments, allow you to bring greater context and nuance to your courses while engaging students through the storytelling power of podcasts.

At the *apply*, *analyze*, and *evaluate* levels of Bloom’s taxonomy, **critical thinking activities** allow students to engage with the political process and learn by doing. Examples include the following:

- Quiz: What is your political ideology?
- Poll: Americans’ Confidence in the Police
- Research: Find Your Senator
- Infographic: Compare the Courts

Practice Government, McGraw-Hill’s educational game focused on the American political system, is fully integrated inside of Connect American Government! A set of focused introductory missions are paired with auto-graded and critical thinking assessments.

Relevant Content

AM GOV presents content in an approachable, meaningful way, designed to engage students.

- **Thinking It Through Activities:** Our discussions at the American Government symposia conducted across the country, as well as survey feedback, made it clear that critical thinking is an essential skill for which instructors need additional support. Now with additional scaffolding, every chapter concludes with a “Thinking It Through” activity tied to a learning objective for the chapter that challenges students to go beyond the basics to think through a problem and formulate possible solutions. Examples include “Media and Political Campaigns” (Chapter 10) and “The Path to the Presidency” (Chapter 12).
- **Citizenship Quizzes:** In these quizzes, students are invited to take the U.S. Citizenship Test to check their understanding of institutions such as the courts, behavior such as voting rights, and the number of amendments to the Constitution.
- **Current Controversy:** These features examine controversial issues, ranging from “Attacks on Journalists and Journalism” (Chapter 10) to “Lower Federal Courts and the Travel Bans” (Chapter 14).
- **Challenges Ahead:** These features examine the political challenges following the 2016 elections and beyond. Topics range from “The Changing American Identity” (Chapter 1) to “Cell Phones and Civil Liberties” (Chapter 4).

- **Global Perspectives:** These features compare the United States to other nations by interpreting charts and graphs. Topics include “Changing Patterns of Political Participation” (Chapter 7) and “Defense Spending” (Chapter 16).

As mentioned earlier, the authors revised the text in response to student heat map data that pinpointed the topics and concepts with which students struggle the most. This heat-map-directed revision is reflected primarily in Chapters 9, 11, 13, and 14.

Chapter 1—Citizenship in Our Changing Democracy

- Revised opening vignette, “Millennials: You’re in Charge Now: Where Will You Take Us?”
- New content on government surveillance and social media
- New poll results on power and influence in Washington
- Updated data on trust in national governments worldwide
- Expanded discussion of the nature and role of political ideologies
- Expanded coverage of the relationship between economic stratification and political engagement
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “The Changing American Identity”
- Expanded discussion of service learning programs
- New figure, “Freshman Class Survey: Essential or Very Important Personal Objectives”

Chapter 2—The Constitution: The Foundation of Citizens’ Rights

- New opening vignette, “Our Constitution: Time for a Change?”
- Expanded discussion of the Bill of Rights’ applicability to the states
- New “Current Controversy” feature, “An Arcane Provision Comes to Life,” addressing the emoluments clause and the Trump presidency

Chapter 3—Federalism: Citizenship and the Dispersal of Power

- New opening vignette on sanctuary cities, “At Odds over Immigration”
- Revised discussion of the evolution of federalism
- New “Portrait of an Activist” feature, “Climate Change Activists”
- New “Challenges Ahead” feature, “A Clash of Wills: Cities Push Back on Preemption”

Chapter 4—Civil Liberties: Citizens’ Rights Versus Security

- New opening vignette on the Masterpiece Cakeshop case, “Civil Liberties Versus Civil Rights: A Sweet Dispute”
- Refined explanation of selective incorporation
- New coverage of the NFL football player protests and the right to free speech
- Updated coverage of the role of religion in American life, the relationship between religious and political affiliation, and the separation of church and state
- Updated coverage of campaign contributions as free speech
- Updated data on incarceration rates
- Updated search and seizure cases

- New Challenges Ahead feature, “Cell Phones and Civil Liberties: Can You Hear Me Now?”
- New “Current Controversy” feature, “More Than a Few Scraped Knees”

Chapter 5—Civil Rights: Toward a More Equal Citizenry

- New opening vignette, “Sexual Assaults on College Campuses”
- Updated information on economic disparities between racial groups in America
- Updated information on perceptions of police and of racial privilege
- Revised explanation of judicial tests regarding discrimination
- Revised discussion of affirmative action, including recent court cases
- Revised coverage of Hispanic Americans, including population growth, college enrollment rates, and immigration
- Update coverage on same-sex marriage
- New “Challenges Ahead” feature, “Voter Suppression and the 2016 Election”
- Updated coverage of pay equity for women
- Updated coverage of sexual harassment

Chapter 6—Public Opinion

- New opening vignette, “Changing Tides of Public Opinion,” on the Obama voters who voted for Trump
- Updated discussion of partisan polarization and partisan clustering
- Updated coverage of the political divide between urban and rural residents
- Revised coverage of the accuracy of polling, including a new Challenges Ahead feature, “Is Polling in Crisis?”
- Updated discussion of trust in government in America
- Updated coverage of support for democratic values
- Revised discussion of ideological divisions, including ideological leanings by generation
- Revised discussion of deliberative polling
- New “Current Controversy” feature on opinion persistence

Chapter 7—Political Participation: Equal Opportunities and Unequal Voices

- New opening vignette, “Millennials Rising,” on young mayors across the nation
- Updated coverage of factors related to political participation
- Updated information on factors affecting voter turnout
- Updated discussion of unconventional political participation, including a new “Global Perspectives” feature
- New “Portrait of an Activist” feature, “Allie Armstrong and the H-CAN Community Moms”

Chapter 8—Interest Groups in America

- New opening vignette, “The National Rifle Association and the Status Quo”
- New figure, “Lobbying Expenditures by the Pharmaceuticals and Health Products Industry”
- Coverage of lobbying and the Trump administration

- New figure, “Total Lobbying Spending and Number of Lobbyists”
- New content on the role of outside money and dark money in the 2016 election

Chapter 9—Parties and Political Campaigns: Putting Democracy into Action

- New opening vignette, “Separate Tables, Please,” on avoiding our partisan adversaries
- Revised explanation of the functions of political parties
- Updated discussion of partisan realignment and the partisan divide
- Updated coverage of campaign spending and campaign advertising
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “Tamping Down the Cost of Elections”

Chapter 10—Media: Tuning In or Tuning Out

- New opening vignette, “How to Restore Confidence,” addressing a recent study on trust in the media
- Updated coverage of differing news media habits across generations
- Updated discussion of the political divide in favored news sources, including a new figure
- Updated polls on the public perception of media bias, including data on the partisan divide on the issue
- New coverage of Facebook and the 2016 election
- Discussion of press coverage of the Trump administration
- New Current Controversy feature, “Attacks on Journalists and Journalism”

Chapter 11—Congress: Doing the People’s Business

- New opening vignette, “Last Man Standing,” on challenges to male dominance in Congress
- Complete coverage of 2018 midterm elections
- New Portrait of an Activist feature, “Meet Jonathan Castañeda” (former congressional staffer)
- Extensive revisions and updates to the section on congressional procedures
- Updated suggestions for improving the efficacy and public image of Congress

Chapter 12—The Presidency: Power and Paradox

- New opening vignette, “The Unprecedented President”
- Coverage of historical continuities and discontinuities of the Trump presidency throughout the chapter
- Analysis of electoral factors contributing to the Trump victory
- Coverage of how Trump exercises presidential powers including appointments, executive orders, diplomacy and foreign policy, and Trump’s legislative success record
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “It’s Two Minutes ‘til Midnight.”
- Analysis of Trump’s presidential style
- Coverage of Russian interference in the 2016 election and the role Facebook played

Chapter 13—Bureaucracy: Citizens as Owners and Consumers

- Updates throughout opening vignette, “Student Loans, Debt, and Bureaucracy”

- New Current Controversy feature, “The Special Counsel: Outside Regular Bureaucratic Boundaries”
- New Challenges Ahead feature, “The FCC and Net Neutrality”
- Updated examples of whistle-blowing and of judicial controls on bureaucratic power

Chapter 14—The Courts: Judicial Power in a Democratic Setting

- New opening vignette, “The Tortuous Selection of a Supreme Court Justice,” on the appointment of Judge Gorsuch
- Refinements and clarifications throughout the section on Supreme Court decision making
- New Current Controversy feature, “Lower Federal Courts and the Travel Bans”
- Updated Challenges Ahead feature, “Confidence in the Supreme Court”

Chapter 15—Public Policy: Responding to Citizens

- Updated opening vignette, “The Widening Gap,” on income inequality
- Updates on greenhouse gas pollution
- Material on the Trump administration’s policies on the environment, poverty, health care, economics, and trade
- Updated statistics on poverty levels in America

Chapter 16—Foreign and Defense Policy: Protecting American Interests in the World

- New opening vignette, “Flight and Fight,” on the world refugee crisis
- Material on the Trump administration’s national security and foreign relations policies and procedures
- Updates on current world conflicts

American Government Symposia

Since 2006, McGraw-Hill Education has conducted several American Government symposia for instructors from across the country. These events offered a forum for instructors to exchange ideas and experiences with colleagues they might not have met otherwise. They also provided an opportunity for editors from McGraw-Hill Education to gather information about what instructors of American Government need and the challenges they face. The feedback we have received has been invaluable and has contributed—directly and indirectly—to the development of *AM GOV*. We would like to thank the participants for their insights:

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Amy Brandon, *San Jacinto College-North*
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Monique Bruner, *Rose State College*

Anita Chadha, *University of Houston—Downtown*
John Clark, *Western Michigan University—Kalamazoo*
Kathleen Collihan, *American River College*
Steven Collins, *Oklahoma State University—Oklahoma City*
John Davis, *Howard University*
Kevin Davis, *North Central Texas College*
Paul Davis, *Truckee Meadows Community College*
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Paul Wilson, *San Antonio College*
John Wood, *University of Central Oklahoma*
Robert Wood, *University of North Dakota*
Larry Wright, *Florida A&M University*
Ann Wyman, *Missouri Southern State University*
Kathryn Yates, *Richland College*

Citizenship

In Our Changing Democracy

WHAT'S TO COME

- ★ **3** Politics, Power, and Participation
- ★ **8** American Political Ideals
- ★ **9** The Changing Face of the American Citizenry
- ★ **13** The Future of Citizenship

MILLENNIALS: YOU'RE IN CHARGE NOW. WHERE WILL YOU TAKE US?

Millennials, young adults between 18 and 34 years of age, are now the largest living generation in the United States. They have surpassed in numbers the generation of baby boomers (those born between 1946 and 1964) who long dominated American politics and culture. The millennial population, already at 83.1 million and representing more than a quarter of the U.S. population, is projected to peak in 2036, surpassing the baby boom generation, which reached 78.8 million in 1999.¹

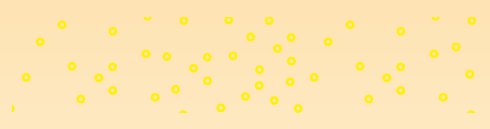
The millennial generation is the most diverse generation in U.S. history, with 44.2 percent being members of a minority race or ethnic group.² Millennials are better educated than previous generations as well. Four in ten millennial workers ages 25 to 29 had at least a bachelor's degree in 2016, compared with smaller percentages of earlier generational cohorts. Women, in particular, have made substantial education gains; almost half (46 percent) of employed millennial women ages 25 to 29 hold at least a bachelor's degree, up substantially from previous generations.³

This group is having a substantial effect on the way the country works and lives. Young people in large numbers are substituting bikes for cars, multiple job holding in the gig economy for full time employment, Amazon for Macy's,



©Zach Gibson/Getty Images

Tens of thousands of students across the nation walked out of class in protest of school violence in Parkland, Florida following the shooting death of 17 students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. The students made clear by their actions that they will "never again" tolerate government inaction on gun control and school safety



streaming for network TV, and Facebook posts for newspaper subscriptions. As we learn more about this emerging majority, some of the stereotypes associated with them are falling way. For example, although the Great Recession forced millennials to postpone some life choices, recent data show the older members of this cohort are now forming families, buying homes, and settling into communities just as their elders did.⁴ Although voter turnout among millennials had been sluggish, this age group was the only one to see turnout increases since 2012, especially among older members. This is what political scientists would expect, and it fits the pattern that turnout increases with age.⁵

As You READ

- What kinds of citizen involvement fuel democracies?
- What ideals fuel American democracy?
- What are some of the changes and challenges facing America today?

Millennials who are attending college or who are college age, remain more civic minded than their immediate predecessors in Generation X. Compared to their elders, they volunteer in their communities at higher rates, are more tolerant of lifestyle differences, are more supportive of equal opportunities for all, and are less likely to support military solutions to international problems.⁶ They are also more likely to express support for nontraditional forms of participation. For example, hundreds of thousands of millennial women have joined women's marches across the country in recent years demanding that their voices be heard on policy issues from health care to sexual harassment. And even younger adults have shown their political prowess by organizing demonstrations across the country to protest school violence and to lobby for gun reform.

Social media are particularly useful tools for engaging millennials. They allow young people to disseminate their views, mobilize like-minded others, and circumvent traditional gatekeepers of information.⁷ Hashtags like *#MeToo* and *#NEVERAGAIN* became powerful symbols of strength for young women combating sexual assault and harassment and for young men and women combatting the scourge of gun violence. Millennials are also prone to register their political views through the marketplace; fully one-third have used their buying power expressly to reward or punish companies for social policies.⁸ Members of racial and ethnic minorities display their own participatory strengths. For example, Hispanics are more likely than their white counterparts to attend political protests; African American youth are more likely than their non-black contemporaries to contact radio stations, TV stations, and newspapers to express political opinions.⁹

Yet, when it comes to electoral politics, a majority of millennials have been turned off by what they see and hear in the political arena. In one study, 60 percent said they believe elected officials are motivated by selfish reasons. Only 15 percent reported that they believe politicians are interested in helping people like themselves.¹⁰ As a result, they actively avoid politics. Todd, a high school junior, responded to researchers asking if he had ever thought about running for political office this way: "It's about lying, cheating, getting nothing done. That's not how I want to spend my time."¹¹ Todd's views may seem unsurprising given the divisiveness of political dialogue in recent years and the negative images of political leaders portrayed in the media. This attitude might be changing, however, in the wake of dissatisfaction with recent government policies. Thousands of young people, particularly women, have expressed interest in running for offices at every level of government.

It is the millennials who will bear the brunt of political decisions made today. They face an uncertain future threatened by fiscal debt, rising levels of economic inequality, and environmental crisis. For that reason, it is more important than ever that millennials sustain active interest and participation in the political process and that we find ways to overcome disparities in income, education, ethnicity, and gender to ensure that all sectors of society get a fair hearing.

Now, as the largest voting bloc in the nation, it is your turn: your turn to make sense of our political choices, to formulate public policies, to run for office, to vote, and to serve in government. What will you make of this opportunity? Where will you take us?