**“Go To” Websites – A Collection of Favorites**

Teachingicivics.org from Learning Law and Democracy Foundation

[http://teachingcivics.org](http://teachingcivics.org/)/ is designed to support educators with an ever-growing repository of relevant material, providing current, professionally vetted and unbiased resources that assist educators in creating engaging lessons that support social studies standards. Find original lessons as well as search for lessons from other civic education sites.

Texas Law-Related Education website at <https://www.texaslre.org>

This site has a variety of grade level appropriate constitutional lessons and games. I have used the Grade 10 Puzzled to put the license plates in order which spells out the preamble. In the search box the word “vote” hits 156 lessons. I like the May I Vote? lesson which teaches the history of voting rights and applies the learning to specific situations. A voting puzzle can be found. Finally, under games there is a tree representing the three branches with leaves that attach spelling out the powers of each branch. (http://texaslre.org/branches\_game/branches\_game.html

North Carolina Law-Related Education website at <http://database.civics.unc.edu/>

Very detailed lesson plans on a variety of historical and civic topics. One lesson has students re-creating the Declaration of Independence through music, skits, etc. <http://civics.sites.unc.edu/files/2012/04/DeclarationofIndependence.pdf>

Rule of Law has students acting out skits based on Supreme Court cases to determine if the law is greater than the people in office.

An interactive election site is <http://www.270towin.com/>

270towin.com is an interactive Electoral College map for 2012 and a history of Presidential elections in the United States. This site uses current polling data to show an electoral college map for 2016. You can choose any presidential election and the electoral map follows. University of Virginia’s Larry Sabato contributes to this site.

A citizen watch site is <http://www.votesmart.org/>

This last week I showed students the speech by President Obama given in St. Paul.

http://votesmart.org/public-statement/849803/remarks-by-the-president-on-jobs-in-american-infrastructure#.UxJQD\_ldV8E. I also use the issues page to choose current legislation for a congressional simulation. I assign students the various lawmakers on the committee and they have to research the lawmaker’s record on the issue. It is a one-stop shop enabling citizens to watch government.

[iCivics.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJennifer%5CDownloads%5Cicivics.org)

Founded and led by Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, iCivics provides students with the tools they need for active participation and democratic action, and teachers with the materials and support to achieve this. Our free resources include print-and-go lesson plans, award-winning games, and digital interactives.

Constitutional Rights Foundation <http://crf-usa.org/>

CRF is a well-respected program, it has an affiliate in Chicago [http://www.crfc.org/](http://www.crfc.org/%20) Produces [Bill of Rights in Action](http://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/) and offers free lessons on current issues. One of the partners in Deliberating in a Democracy.

Deliberating in a Democracy <http://www.dda.deliberating.org/>

International civics education program that produced deliberation materials on current/controversial issues. The lessons use structured academic controversy strategy to teach deliberation skills. Includes translations to other languages.

Ojibwe Treaty Rights from the Great Lakes Indian and Fish Wildlife Commission

Updated, Feb. 2014, this booklet can be purchased at www.glifwc.org or viewed as a Flipbook or downloaded at <http://glifwc.org/publications/TreatyRightsFlipbook/index.html>. Nice resource for teaching content required by new MN Social Studies Standards.

Youth Leadership Initiative

The [Youth Leadership Initiative](http://www.youthleadership.net/?_yli_session=735d2136a7aaaeabdc6c481b3add9ece) at the University of Virginia Center for Politics is dedicated to increasing civic engagement by providing teachers with the best civics education materials and programs. <http://www.youthleadership.net/?_yli_session=735d2136a7aaaeabdc6c481b3add9ece>

Landmark Cases <http://www.streetlaw.org/en/landmark/home>

Street Law, Inc. developed landmarkcases.org with funding from the Supreme Court Historical Society to provide teachers with a full range of resources and activities to support the teaching of landmark Supreme Court cases. Student readings are presented in three reading levels and are supported by engaging activities.

Constitution Center

A variety of resources on this site are useful and include "Which Founder are You?" <http://constitutioncenter.org/foundersquiz/> and a Founder's library with fantastic quotations assembled all in one place <http://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/lesson-plans/the-founders-library-thinking-as-a-founding-father>. Good literacy/primary source activities. Also recommend a middle school lesson tied to electoral politics.

Budget Hero

<http://www.marketplace.org/topics/economy/budget-hero>, budget-balancing game produced by the newsroom partners from American Public Media's Public Insight Network.