

Issues in Modern America

Topic	Target(s)	Assessments
Student Rights	Students will: Understand the law as it pertains to the right of free speech in general and student rights in particular. Be able to read and understand Supreme Court Opinions. Understand student privacy rights. Learn how to brief a Supreme Court Opinion. Be able to formulate a written legal argument.	Written Legal Paper
Death Penalty/The Justice System	Students will: Understand multiple arguments in favor of and against the death penalty. Be able to apply an oral legal argument either in favor of or against the death penalty to a specific factual case.	Death Penalty Oral Argument.
Abortion and Gun Control (note-topics subject to change)	Students will: Understand multiple perspectives in the ongoing arguments about abortion and gun control. Be able to research and apply materials about multiple aspects of a current, ongoing, “American Issue” (i.e. abortion or gun control)	Abortion Mini-Essay Gun-Control Mini Essay
Affirmative Action Racial Justice Police Brutality White Supremacy	Students will: Understand the history behind affirmative action in the United States. See how questions about affirmative action impact college admissions. Explore how questions in regard to race continue to impact other areas of society today. Identify areas where white supremacist ideologies are influencing American society.	Affirmative Action in Colleges response packet. Research Paper
Sexual Harassment/Rape	Students will: Understand the legal definitions of sexual harassment and rape. Participate in the legal processes of a trial. Be able to make an argument based on law and fact in support of one side of a sexual harassment or rape trial. Listen to a trial as a juror and then be able to articulate their reasoning behind their decision.	Mock Trial

Hazing/Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Students will: Understand the definition of hazing Be able to recognize what hazing is and isn't Debate the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse in college.	Presentation/Video Ad
Politics/Elections	Students will: Become informed citizens capable of making a reasoned choice as they participate in our electoral system.	
Issues in General	Students will: Be able to identify an issue of concern to a wide variety of people. Be able to articulate both points of view in relation to an issue of concern to a wide variety of people. Make a persuasive argument in favor of a position that they support in relation to an issue of concern to a wide variety of people. Be able to lead a group discussion in relation to an issue of interest . Be able to participate in discussions and debates in relation to issues of concern to a wide variety of people.	Student-led discussions. Marketplace of Ideas or Last Word Project