

## **VI. POWER, AUTHORITY, AND GOVERNANCE**

Social studies teachers should possess the knowledge, capabilities, and dispositions to organize and provide instruction at the appropriate school level for the study of Power, Authority, and Governance.

### **Learner Expectations**

Understanding the historical development of structures of power, authority, and governance and their evolving functions in contemporary American society, as well as in other parts of the world, is essential for the development in learners of civic competence. In exploring this theme, learners confront such questions as: What is power? What is legitimate authority? How are governments created, structured, maintained, and changed? How can we keep government responsive to its citizens' needs and interests? How can individual rights be protected within the context of majority rule? By examining the characteristics of various governance systems, learners develop an understanding of how groups and nations attempt to resolve conflicts and seek to establish order and security. Through study of dynamic relationships among individual rights and responsibilities, the needs of social groups, and concepts of a just society, learners become more effective problem solvers and decision-makers when addressing persistent social problems encountered in public life.

## INSTRUCTIONS

1. List the courses you have taken (and final grade earned) that you feel have addressed this standard.

Course #	Course Name	Instructor	Grade	Ck

2. Check (ck) above the one course that best enabled you to understand the concepts in this standard.
  - Attach a graded work sample from this class.
  - Attach a syllabus from this class. Highlight where the work sample appears in the syllabus.
  - Note that you can use one course for more than one standard; however, you can only use your graded work sample once.
3. Write a 150-200 words essay (typed, double-spaced, and in 12-point font) that addresses the questions listed below.
  - a. Why did you choose this particular course as your example? (Demonstrate that you understand the content and concepts contained in the standard. Show clearly how the course relates to the standard.)
  - b. How does your work sample show that you understand this standard? (Demonstrate the sample's relationship to the standard.)