

Exploring Core Democratic Values Looking at Current Issues in the News

Lesson plan:

1. Spend time introducing the Core Democratic Values and Principles.
2. Once the class is familiar with and can define/discuss CDVs, introduce the concept in the Basic Beliefs collection of news articles or bring in articles from local papers or online news sources that demonstrate that CDVs are in play today, every day in our current events/issues.
3. Define “public policy” and differentiate from “Service Learning.”
4. Give each group of four students one article to read and discuss. Most of the articles have focus questions to facilitate a discussion in Part I of the Activity. Be ready to present (summarize, don’t read) the article to the rest of the class and tell why it is representative of the CDV at the top of the article.

Assignment: Find an article in any local newspaper or online news source (MLive, WSJ, NYT, etc.) that presents a local, state, or national public policy issue. ***Print out for class and attach to this rubric.*** Summarize the article. – Identify the CDV that is being debated. – Identify the level of government that would have jurisdiction in this issue. (local, state, national) **AND** the branch of government that addresses this issue Give the rationale for choosing the CDV you identified and why you said that. – Develop 2-3 focus questions that would help another student discuss the issue. – Be ready to present your article to a small group and turn in.

Exploring CDVs in the News Rubric (USE TEMPLATE)

	3 points	1 point	0 points
On time	Assignment is on time and available for class discussion	Work is posted on time, but not brought to class for discussion	Assignment is late.
Title/APA Citation (Use Template)	Article is identified using APA citation format	Article is identified by the Title, Date, News Source	Article is misidentified or not identified
Article – print and include with assignment	Included article highlights a U.S. community, state, or national public policy issue	Included article is about something other than a U.S. public policy issue (service learning, etc.)	No copy of the article turned in with assignment
Grammar, Spelling,	0-1 mistakes in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation.	2 -3 mistakes in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation don’t affect understanding.	Any amount of mistakes in writing affect understanding
Article Summary (5Ws and H) (Use Template)	Article is summarized clearly and succinctly including all important information	Article is summarized. Important info may be missing or summary includes too much info.	Article summary is missing.
CDV identified (Use Template)	CDV(s) identified correctly	Unclear choice; not really the focus of this article	CDV identified incorrectly or not identified
Rationale for each CDV (Use Template)	Rationale for each identified CDV clearly described	Rationale for identified CDV described, but may be unclear	Rationale for identified CDV not described
Level of government (Use Template)	Correctly identifies the U.S. level of government with jurisdiction	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Level of U.S. government missing/incorrect.
Branch of government (Use Template)	Correctly identifies the branch(es) of U.S. government involved	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Branch(es) of U.S. gov’t involved missing/incorrect.
Focus questions (Use Template)	2-3 focus questions that will facilitate discussion of the issue	1 focus question that will facilitate discussion	No focus questions written

Total points possible: 30; What do you think? _____ Total points earned: _____

Name and SST309 Section	Barb Wheeler 03
Title of Article and APA Citation	Michigan minimum wage group increases proposal to \$10.10 per hour Anders, M. (2014, 02 17). Michigan minimum wage group increases proposal to \$10.10 per hour. <i>mLive</i> . Retrieved from http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2014/02/michigan_minimum_wage_group_in.html
Complete summary of Article (5Ws and H) (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?)	This article discusses the potential increase for minimum wage within Michigan. “Raise Michigan” is the group currently petitioning for the increase in minimum wage in order to help citizens in poverty. Not only do they want to raise minimum wage in general, but they would also like to raise it for employees that are tipped. The group needs to have 258,088 people sign their petition so that it can be sent to the Legislature. If approved, “Raise Michigan” wants the minimum wage increased by 2017.
Core Democratic Value(s)	1. Liberty 2. Popular Sovereignty
Rationale for <i>each</i> of the CDVs (Why does the CDV you chose fit this issue?)	1. Liberty fits with this particular issue because the group, Raise Michigan, has the right to form a group and express their opinion of increasing minimum wage by petitioning. 2. Popular Sovereignty also fits with this issue because citizens have the overall power in regards to how the government is run. So, if enough people will agree to increasing minimum wage, then it will be put on the ballot for citizens to vote on the issue.
Branch of Government indicated in this issue AND how do you know?	The branch of government indicated for this particular issue is the legislative branch because the lawmakers will implement the proposal if enough citizens vote in favor of the issue. Also, the article specifically states that the legislature is in charge of passing the proposal when enough people sign the petition.
Level of Government with jurisdiction – AND how do you know?	The level of government with jurisdiction for this issue is the state level. I know this because the proposal is only geared toward Michigan.
2-3 Focus questions – how would you lead a substantive discussion on this article as it relates to the Core Democratic Values?	What Core Democratic Values do you think relate to the proposal of increasing minimum wage? Explain your reasoning. If this proposal were to receive enough signatures, would you want the bill to pass so that minimum wage would increase to \$10.10 by the year 2017? Why or why not?