

Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District  
La Entrada High School

U.S. Government Content Standards

***Principles of American Democracy***

Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the *Federalist Papers*. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

**12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.**

**12.2 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.**

**12.3 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on what the fundamental values and principles of civil society are (i.e., the autonomous sphere of voluntary personal, social, and economic relations that are not part of government), their interdependence, and the meaning and importance of those values and principles for a free society.**

**12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.**

**12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.**

**12.6 Students evaluate issues regarding campaigns for national, state, and local elective offices.**

**12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.**

**12.8 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the influence of the media on American political life.**

**12.9 Students analyze the origins, characteristics, and development of different political systems across time, with emphasis on the quest for political democracy, its advances, and its obstacles.**

**12.10 Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.**