

AP U.S. Government & Politics

Simulation Integration Guide & Curriculum Map

To the Instructor: Why Simulate?

Statecraft: The Situation Room

AP Government students often struggle to connect abstract concepts (Federalism, Checks and Balances) with reality. This curriculum map demonstrates how the Statecraft simulation replaces passive lecturing with active political conflict. By placing students in the roles of President, Senator, or Justice, we force them to 'live' the required documents rather than just memorize them.

AP® Disciplinary Practices & Big Ideas

- Concept Application: Apply political concepts (War Powers, Federalism) to real-world scenarios.
 - Data Analysis: Analyze approval ratings, polling data, and budget deficits.
 - Source Analysis: Interpret primary documents (Executive Orders, Legislative Bills).
 - Argumentation: Develop defensible claims about policy choices (Security vs. Liberty).
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Curriculum Map: Mapping Simulation to AP Units

Unit 1: Foundations of American Democracy

FEDERALISM & CONSTITUTIONAL POWER

Simulation Mechanics: State Governors block Federal prisoner transfers (Guantanamo). President battles Congress over War Powers Resolution compliance.

Required Documents Applied: Federalist No. 10, Brutus No. 1, Constitution

Unit 2: Interactions Among Branches

CHECKS & BALANCES / IRON TRIANGLES

Simulation Mechanics: Congress attempts to override Presidential Veto on budget. Bureaucratic agencies fight for funding (Turf Wars). Senate confirms/rejects appointments.

Required Documents Applied: Federalist No. 51, Federalist No. 70

Unit 3: Civil Liberties & Civil Rights

BALANCING LIBERTY & ORDER

Simulation Mechanics: President chooses between 4th Amendment rights and 'Enhanced Surveillance' directives to stop a terror plot. Courts rule on constitutionality.

Required Documents Applied: Bill of Rights, Letter from Birmingham Jail

Unit 4: American Political Ideologies

POLLING & PUBLIC OPINION

Simulation Mechanics: Candidates analyze 'Approval Rating' tracking polls. Impact of 'Scandal' events on voter sentiment in swing districts.

Required Documents Applied: Reliability of Data, Keynesian vs. Supply-Side budgets

Unit 5: Political Participation

MEDIA, PARTIES & ELECTIONS

Simulation Mechanics: The 'Symbiotic Relationship' between Press and Politicians. Leaking classified intel to shape the narrative. Interest Group lobbying (ACLU vs. Security Hawks).

Required Documents Applied: Citizens United (simulated via Campaign Finance mechanics)

Turn-Key Pacing Calendar

Proposed Fall Semester Timeline

SEPTEMBER	Unit 1: Foundations Orientation + Sim Period 0 <i>Focus: Login, Role Selection, Federalism Dispute</i>
OCTOBER	Unit 2: Branches Sim Period 1 & 2 <i>Focus: Legislative Gridlock, Vetoes, Appointments</i>
NOVEMBER	Unit 3: Civil Liberties Sim Period 3 (Crisis) <i>Focus: National Security Crisis vs. Bill of Rights</i>
DECEMBER	Review & Midterms Sim Period 4 (Budget) <i>Focus: Power of the Purse, Shutdown Threats</i>
JANUARY	Unit 4: Ideologies Sim Period 5 (Polling) <i>Focus: Public Opinion Data, Ad Buys, Approval Ratings</i>
FEBRUARY	Unit 5: Participation Sim Period 6 (Election) <i>Focus: Voter Turnout, Media Leaks, Final Vote</i>

Funding Proposal / Purchase Justification

Instructions: Submit this letter to your Department Head or Principal.

To: Administration / Social Studies Department Chair

From: AP Government Instructor

Subject: Proposal to Integrate 'Statecraft' Simulation into AP Curriculum

Dear Administrator,

I am writing to request approval to adopt the Statecraft US Government simulation for my AP Government & Politics course next semester. This interactive platform aligns directly with our goal of increasing student engagement and improving AP Exam performance.

Rationale for Adoption:

1. Alignment with College Board Standards:

Statecraft is not a game; it is a curriculum engine designed around the 5 Big Ideas of the AP Framework. It requires students to apply the War Powers Resolution, Federalism, and Civil Liberties in real-time scenarios, directly preparing them for the Argument Essay (FRQ #4).

2. Solution to Student Disengagement:

Traditional lectures struggle to convey the complexity of 'gridlock' or 'bureaucracy.' By placing students in the roles of President, Senator, or Justice, Statecraft forces them to experience these concepts. This 'active learning' model is proven to increase retention rates.

3. Cost-Effective:

At a fraction of the cost of physical textbooks or supplementary workbooks, Statecraft provides a full semester of engagement, including automated grading features that allow me to focus more time on individual student feedback.

I have reviewed the curriculum map (attached) and confirmed that it fits seamlessly into our existing pacing guide without requiring additional instructional days.

Thank you for considering this opportunity to modernize our civics instruction.

Sincerely,

[Instructor Signature]