

Civic Duties

Anchor Chart Kit

Civic Duties

mandatory and voluntary



Serving on a jury.



Staying informed





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Clip Art and Fonts

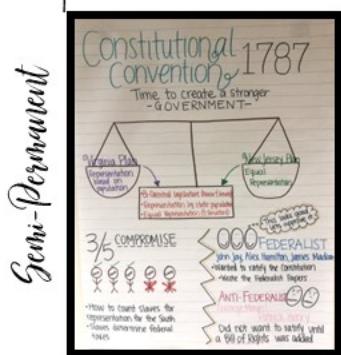
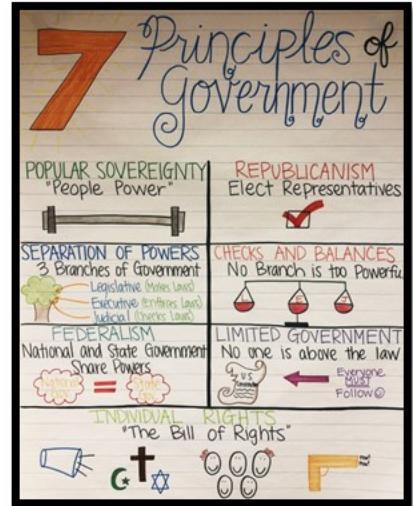


Anchor Charts in Social Studies

As a Social Studies teacher, the thought of anchor charts intimidated me - don't you have to be super creative? How would I use them in my class? Would they even work with Social Studies? What would they say?

Then I saw some amazing anchor charts in classrooms and the light came on! These are for the concepts in Social Studies and the big ideas - those topics you spend a few weeks on. I was able to see how students actually use anchor charts - they frame the learning of the unit in a visual summary. Students refer to the charts and use them as tools as they answer questions, expand ideas, or contribute to discussions and problem-solving in class. Anchor charts build a culture of literacy in the classroom, as teachers make content visible by recording key ideas or strategies. Students can refer to them during and after a unit of instruction. Posting anchor charts keeps content accessible to students to remind them of prior learning and to enable them to make connections across time. You can even have students copy anchor charts into their Interactive Student Notebook.

As I continued my research, I still struggled with the temporary nature of an anchor chart. If the ideal is to make an anchor chart with students, how would I create multiple anchor charts for different sets of students? And then I realized that there are different types of anchor charts for Social Studies, you have those that are semi-permanent - they anchor the key ideas of a unit, and you have those that are interactive, you create one base chart before class, and then each class can add ideas or content with post-its or index cards.

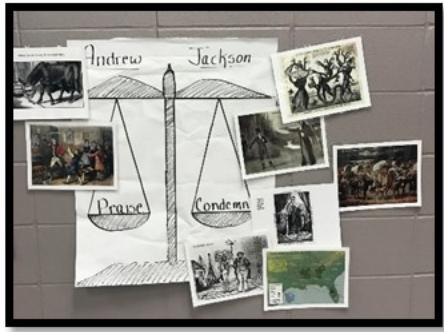


Semi-Permanent

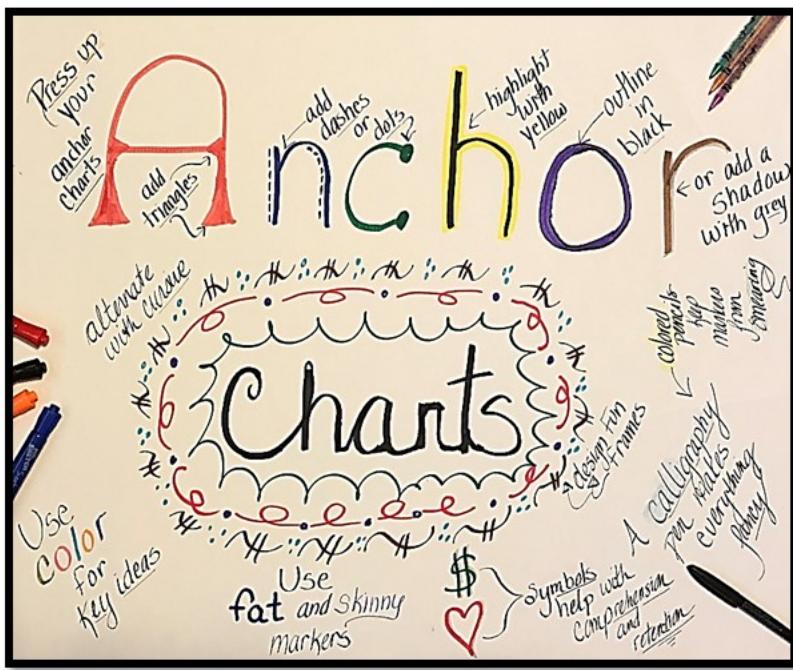


Tips for Anchor Charts

As I work with teachers and students, I have learned several different tips that make anchor chart development easier and the use more meaningful. A big "Thank You!" to teachers across the Houston area who have shared their ideas for anchor charts.



Interactive: make headings, borders, and frames before class. Provide students with post-it's, index cards, pre-printed statements, or even pictures. As you teach your lesson, students complete the anchor chart with the movable parts. You can then reuse your base chart with each class period.



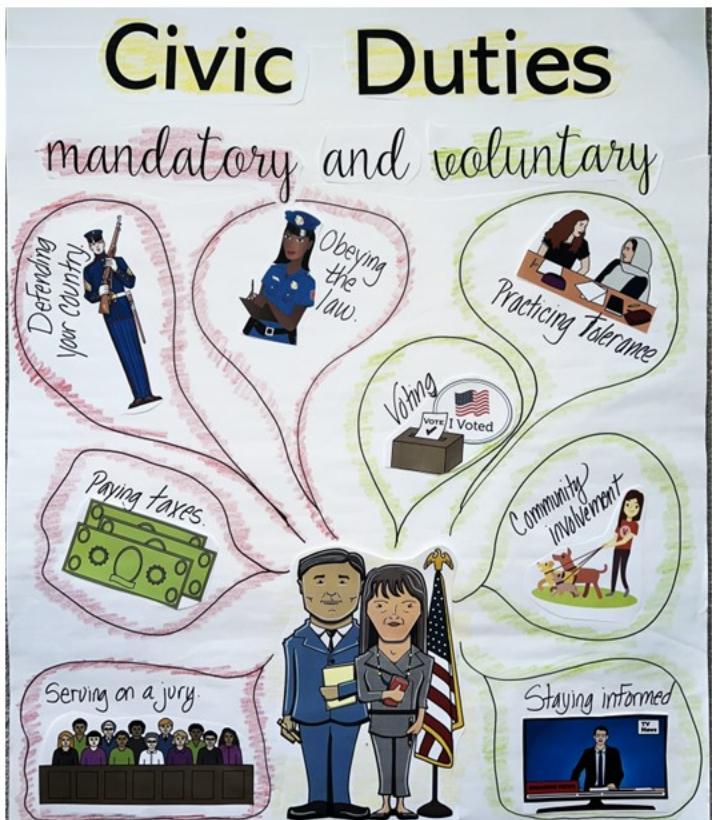
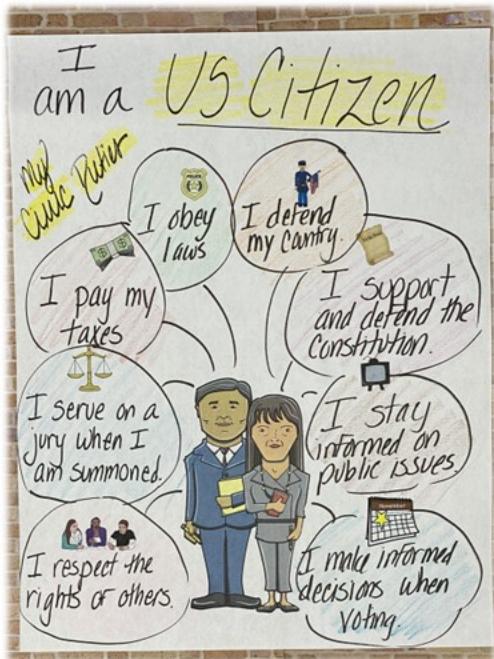
Semi-permanent: keep your anchor charts simple. You want to create a visual summary, not a novel. Use symbols and thinking maps to help organize the content of an anchor chart. Dress up the anchor chart with fancy titles, border, frames, lettering, or pictures. Interested in more ideas and content examples? Check out my Pinterest board for Anchor Charts at www.pinterest.com/SSSuccess/



Post your current anchor chart next to your screen. Touch and point to your anchor chart throughout the unit. Ask questions that reference the content from the anchor chart. If you use it, your students will as well. You can keep your anchor charts posted all year to reference as you teach new content or review.

Directions

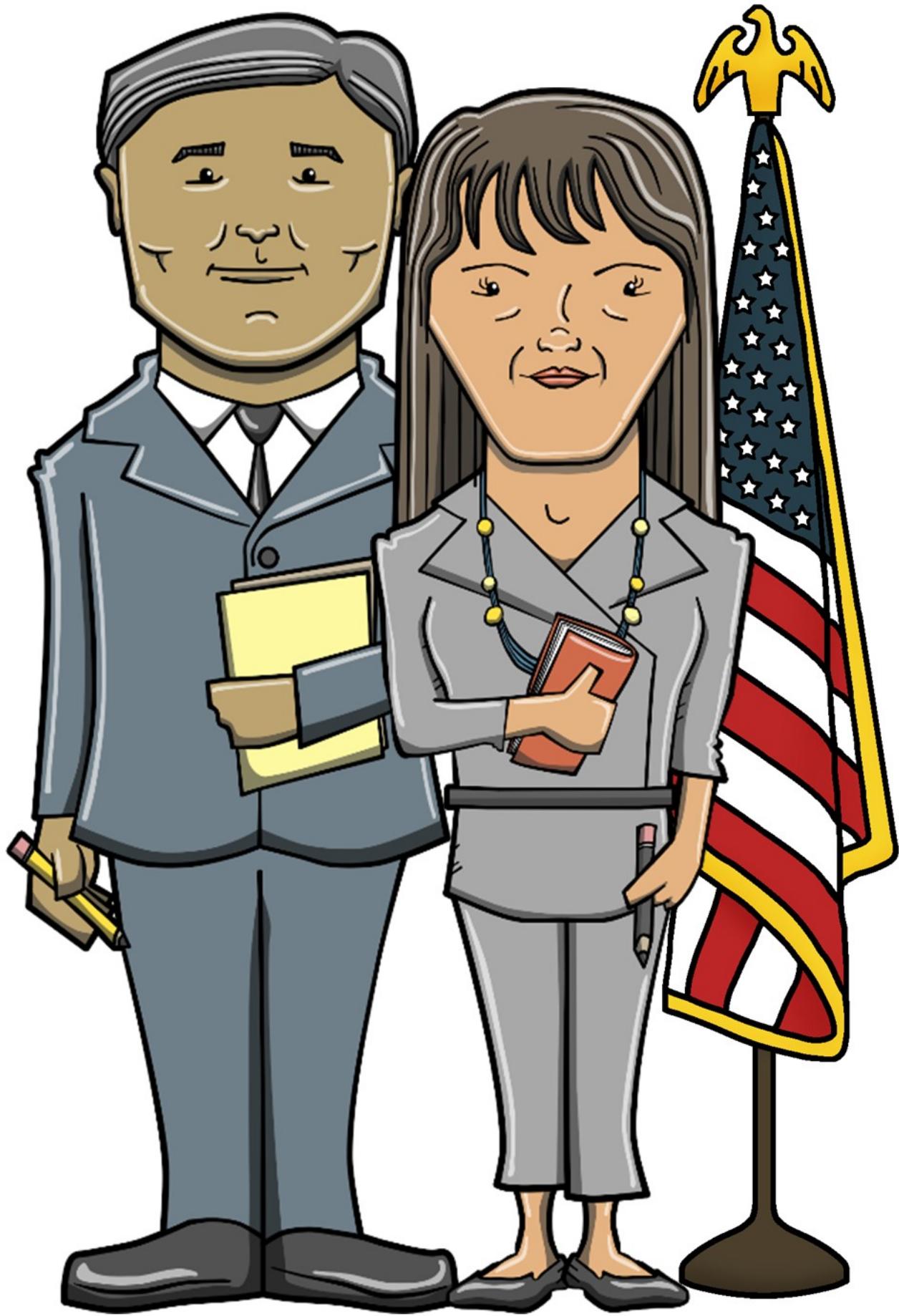
This anchor chart can be assembled by printing the clip art and gluing it onto chart paper. You can use one of these two designs or create your own. I used a crayon to color the spaces I wanted to emphasize. Enjoy!

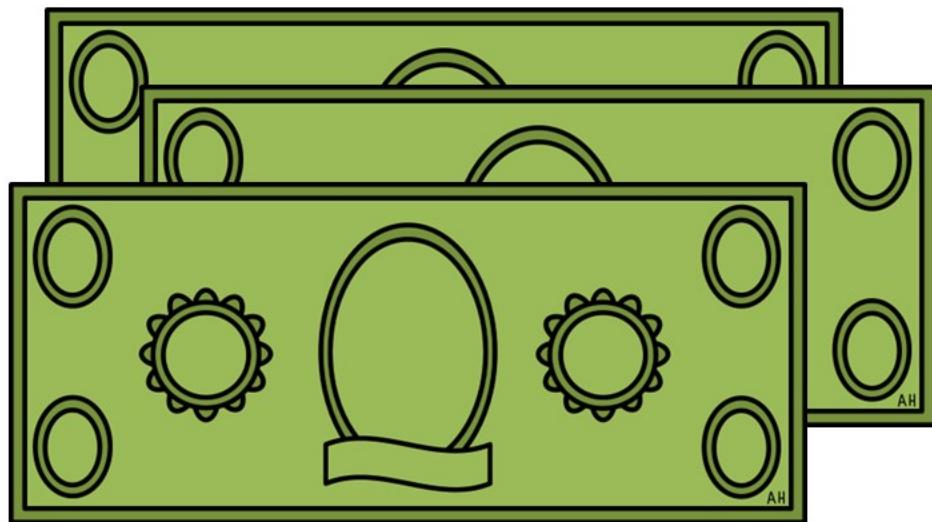


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imagination
and
creativity









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Do you want to learn more engaging strategies for Social Studies? Are you interested in techniques for classroom discussion? Need tips for struggling readers or writers? Intimidated by all the vocabulary necessary for teaching Social Studies? Need ideas for using anchor charts in your classroom? Take an online on-demand PD course from me! Find out more [here](#).

I love *connecting* and *sharing ideas* with teachers!
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About the Author

What do I believe about Social Studies instruction?

- ✓ Students need to be engaged to learn.
-Schlechty's *Design Qualities of engagement*
- ✓ History can be fun and rigorous at the same time.
-Bower's *Bring Learning Alive!*
- ✓ All students can learn – we just need to support them in different ways.
-Seidltz's *Seven Steps*
- ✓ Kids need to continuously review content through games and engaging activities.
-Himmele's *Total Participation Techniques*
- ✓ Writing is essential for learning, not just assessment.
-Daniels' *Content Area Writing*
- ✓ Vocabulary instruction must be intentional and engaging.
-Marzano *Academic Vocabulary*
- ✓ History should not be trivial pursuit – dig deeper and teach with essential questions and enduring understandings.
-Wiggins & McTighe *Essential Questions*
- ✓ Students are social – purposeful talk is crucial to learning.
-Walsh *Quality Questioning*
- ✓ Students need to read in Social Studies – reading informational text cannot be mastered without constant practice.
-Kinsella's *Considerate Text*
- ✓ "Soft skills" of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity are essential to future success in the job market.
-Muir *Reasons Millennials Get Fired*
- ✓ Everyone's story needs to be told – we have a great responsibility for helping students see patterns in history across time. Teachers should not be afraid to teach the "hard history".
-Dawn



Dawn Viñas has served in education for over a quarter of a century.

Dawn earned her Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. In her education journey, she was shaped by her various roles as a classroom teacher, instructional coach, curriculum coordinator, professional development trainer, university professor, and teacher-author. Dawn has provided Social Studies professional development for over 20 years to more than 10,000 teachers from Alaska to Florida. In 2015, Dawn started Social Studies Success® with the mission to revolutionize social studies instruction. With a goal of improving instruction, Dawn is currently providing consulting, classroom resources, and professional development services to several school districts across the state of Texas. Do you have a question or would you like to purchase a license for your district? You can reach Dawn [here](#).