

American Government is a curriculum-driven instructional tool from ABC-CLIO Schools citing an abundance of authoritative and comprehensive content which, along with customizing capabilities, makes it valuable for all American government needs. It guides users in connecting the most-talked-about issues of our day with the foundations of government.

Computer commands, field names and mouse actions are in *Italics*.

Text that you must type is within single quote marks (' ').

To access **American Government**:

Go to: RCPL (<http://www.myrcl.com>)

Click: **Research and Learning**

Click: **Research Tools**

Click: **Government (or use the A-Z list of databases)**

Scroll to: **American Government**

Click: **Inside the Library** or **Home Access**

1. I'm writing a paper for civics class and need some suggestions for topics.

- ☐ Click *Topics* or *Explore a Topic* at the home page.
- ☐ Nine broad categories related to American government are displayed (*Foundations, Legislative Branch, Executive Branch, Judicial Branch, Rights and Liberties, Political Behavior, Domestic and Foreign Policy, Political and Economic Systems, State and Local Government*).
- ☐ Each broad topic is broken down into subtopics which can be clicked to display further refinements.

2. I've decided to write about civil rights issues. What's the best way to search?

- ☐ Click *Topics*.
- ☐ From the nine broad categories, click *Civil Rights* (under *Rights and Liberties*).
- ☐ When the *Civil Rights* page is displayed, the left side of the screen will list links for *Overview, Visual, People and Organizations, Facts and Figures, Activity, Discussion, and Primary Sources*. Clicking any or all will reveal more links related to this topic in different aspects.

3. How does a bill become a law?

- ☐ Click *Topics*.
- ☐ Click *How a Bill Becomes a Law* (under *Legislative Branch*). This action will display the same seven links as in question 2.
- ☐ Clicking *Visual* displays a flow chart illustrating the process.

4. I've been hearing a lot about using ethanol made from corn as fuel. Does American Government have any information about this?

- ☐ In the *Search* box (top right), type 'ethanol'
- ☐ Click *Search*. This action will display a list of articles in which ethanol is mentioned at least once.