

What is Civics?

Civics is our understanding of government structures and processes; also using that knowledge to better our communities.

**Social Studies Administrator,
Miami-Dade, FL**

Civics is participation in government, either directly or indirectly.

**High School Government Teacher,
Prince William County, VA**

Civics is a lifelong process of becoming an active and responsible citizen.

**Middle School Civics
Teacher, Miami-Dade, FL**



Why is it important?

Civics is the foundation for a healthy society. It is a field that includes history, economics, and government. It is a process that individuals can participate in no matter their age. When people understand how the government works, they can practice civic engagement and make their communities better places to live.

Examples of what students can learn through civics:

Civic Knowledge

- The structure and function of government
- How policies and laws are created and upheld
- Individual rights and responsibilities

Civic Skills

- Critical thinking
- Media literacy
- Decision making

Civic Dispositions

- Integrity
- Compromise
- Respect



Making connections:

Starting with civics builds a strong foundation and knowledge base for students. It also provides an opportunity to deepen student learning through service and leadership. Making the connections between civics, service and leadership helps move students towards civic engagement. It encourages students to take what they learned and apply it outside of the classroom. Familiarize yourself with the themes of civics, service, and leadership to see what kinds of connections you can make!



Questions to consider:

- How do I define civics?
- How do I teach civic knowledge, skills, and dispositions?
- How do I inspire civic engagement within the classroom?