

Democracy Lab: 8th Grade Civics for the 21st Century

Our innovative and comprehensive approach to civic learning is fully aligned with the 2018 Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework. Targeted for the expansion of civic learning in social studies education, Democracy Lab is tailored for 8th grade teachers responding to the newly released Framework while preparing students for success on the proposed MCAS evaluation.

Whether teachers are designing an entirely new civics course or adding to an existing one, Democracy Lab will equip them to create learning opportunities that engage students through inquiry-based, culturally-responsive, and active learning/action-oriented approaches.

Democracy Lab offers teachers a rare opportunity to receive training and curricular materials while belonging to a professional learning community where they will become:

- ◆ Confident in their knowledge of civics concepts
- ◆ Qualified to implement innovative, interactive, and relevant approaches for meaningful civic learning
- ◆ Capable of incorporating student-centered and action civics pedagogies
- ◆ Versed in digital and multimedia civic learning tools

DEMOCRACY LAB COMPONENTS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Democracy Lab features multiple and ongoing opportunities for teachers' professional development crafted to support the implementation of civic learning in Massachusetts.



Summer boot camp (July 15-19, 2019 in the Boston area; PDPs & graduate credit available)

- ◆ Learn from leading scholars and expert teachers
- ◆ Explore curriculum resources
- ◆ Collaboratively design units that address new content, practice, and literacy standards

Online sessions (2-4 per year)

- ◆ Guided conversation focused on the Framework civics content standards
- ◆ Overview of new and updated resources
- ◆ MCAS Teacher Readiness Sessions (starting in 2020-21)

STUDENT RESOURCES

Our curriculum integrates content, practice and literacy standards from the Framework and provides a model for teaching civics while promoting students' social and emotional development.



Multiple lesson units

- ◆ Launch year includes 8 lesson units addressing topics from the Framework, including:
 - Philosophical foundations of the United States political system
 - Rights and responsibilities of citizens
 - The Constitution, Amendments, and Supreme Court decisions
 - Freedom of the press and news/media literacy
- ◆ Each following year new lessons on all topics will be released and all lessons will be updated.
- ◆ Promotes students' development of civic and critical thinking skills and dispositions, such as:
 - Deliberation
 - Effective communication
 - Media literacy
 - Empowered civic agency

TEACHER RESOURCES

Democracy Lab features a wide range of relevant and high quality digital teacher resources curated to guide teachers to materials appropriate for building their civics course including:



- ◆ Lessons, videos, and teaching tools from leading nonprofits and civics organizations
- ◆ Books, articles, and blogs for teachers
- ◆ Content materials for students

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our ongoing professional learning community showcases 8th teachers' expertise and unique voices by providing a platform where they can:



- ◆ Engage in reflective practice
- ◆ Share resources and materials
- ◆ Collaborate with colleagues throughout Massachusetts

WAYS TO JOIN

VALUE - 5-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

COVERS LAUNCH, PILOT & INITIAL MCAS + 2 YEARS OF SUPPORT

Includes:

- 5-day summer bootcamp (year 1)
- 2-4 online sessions per year (including MCAS Teacher Readiness years 2-5)
- 8 lesson units (year 1) and 2+ additional lesson units each year (years 2-5)
- 5 years of access to new and updated resources
- 5 year of membership in growing professional learning community

BASIC - 3-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

COVERS LAUNCH, PILOT & INITIAL MCAS

Includes:

- 5-day summer bootcamp (year 1)
- 2-4 online sessions per year (including MCAS Teacher Readiness years 2 & 3)
- 8 lesson units (year 1) and 2+ additional lesson units each year (years 2 & 3)
- 3 years of access to new and updated resources
- 3 years of membership in growing professional learning community

INTRODUCTORY - 1-YEAR SUBSCRIPTION

COVERS LAUNCH YEAR

Includes:

- 5-day summer bootcamp (year 1)
- 2-4 online sessions
- 8 lesson units
- 1 year of access to resources
- 1 year of membership in growing professional learning community