

# ALIGNMENT DOCUMENT

## Ultimate Civics Activating My Democracy

### LESSON 4: Who Rules? The Democracy Crisis (Understanding the journey)

**EALR 1: CIVICS** – The student understands and applies knowledge of government, law, politics, and the nation’s fundamental documents to make decisions about local, national, and international issues and to demonstrate thoughtful, participatory citizenship.

**Suggested unit:** U.S. – Looking Forward

**CBA:** mixed, see below

*C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards: D2.Civ.8, D2.Civ.10, & D2.Civ.12*  
<http://www.socialstudies.org/system/files/c3/C3-Framework-for-Social-Studies.pdf>

GLE	Grades 6–8
<p><b>COMPONENT 1.1:</b> Understands key ideals and principles of the United States, including those in the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and other key documents.  <b>CBA:</b> Constitutional issues</p>	
1.1.1  Application of ideals & principles	<p>Understands key ideals and principles in the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights.</p> <p><u>Examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines basic framework of the Constitution and Bill of Rights</li> <li>• Explores two internal threats – fear of other and love of power – to our democracy, using an interactive timeline to illustrate power struggles</li> </ul>
1.1.2	<p>Evaluates efforts to reduce discrepancies between key ideals and reality – during the second 130 years.</p> <p><u>Examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explores how discrepancies between key ideals and reality have widened</li> <li>• Explains how groups of people have effectively gained and lost power</li> <li>• Explores how artificial entities came to have power over the people</li> <li>• Explains how money became speech under the law</li> </ul>
<p><b>COMPONENT 1.2:</b> Understands the purposes, organization, and function of governments, laws, and political systems.  <b>CBA:</b> Checks &amp; balances</p>	
1.2.2	<p>Evaluates effectiveness of the system of checks and balances in the United States based on an event.</p> <p><u>Example</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critiques the effectiveness of checks and balances in the series of Supreme Court cases leading to and after <i>Citizens United v. FEC</i></li> </ul>



**EALR 5: SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS** – The student understands and applies reasoning skills to conduct research, deliberate, form, and evaluate positions through the process of reading, writing, and communicating.

GLE	Grades 6–8
<b>COMPONENT 5.1:</b> Uses critical reasoning skills to analyze and evaluate positions.	
5.1.1  Application of ideals & principles	<p>Understands positions and new concepts, and evidence and reasons supporting positions or concepts.</p> <p><u>Examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies and examines root causes of repeating cycles of power struggles as groups of people gain, and lose, equal treatment and opportunity under the law</li> <li>• Examines social consequences of the judicial doctrine of artificial entities with human rights on the rights and power of real people</li> <li>• Explores concept of judicial review and how it was used to create a new body of law recognizing “money is speech”</li> <li>• Discusses social consequences of the judicial doctrine “money is speech” in a democracy underpinned by free and fair elections</li> </ul>
<b>COMPONENT 5.3:</b> Deliberates public issues. <b>CBA:</b> Checks & balances	
5.3.1  Application of ideals & principles	<p>Applies key ideals outlined in fundamental documents to engage in discussions to clarify, address and respond to multiple viewpoints on public issues.</p> <p><u>Examples</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examines effectiveness of system of checks and balances when the Supreme Court creates laws that give artificial entities power over the people</li> <li>• Interactive exercise, Understanding the Journey, probes effectiveness of system of checks and balances with people as sovereign when the Supreme Court creates artificial entities with power over the people</li> </ul>