



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

PREAMBLE CURRENT EVENTS

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Activity Description

This lesson was adapted from lessons in the Voice and More Perfect Union curricula units developed by and available from the Constitutional Rights Foundation in Chicago, Illinois (<http://www.crfc.org>).

To extend students' understanding of the purposes and functions of government, older students might categorize government activities according to which of the purposes of government listed in the Preamble they fulfill. For example, "U.S. troops prepare for a raid on an Iraqi town where terrorists are believed to be operating" would likely be categorized as providing for the common defense. Examples are provided for your convenience, but government activities covered in the newspaper could also be categorized in this fashion.

Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary to high school

Estimated Time to Complete

One class period

Objective

- The students will be able to categorize government activities according to which of the purposes of government listed in the Preamble they fulfill.

Materials Needed

- Functions of Government cards (follow)
- Copy of the Preamble

FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT CARDS

<p>U.S. troops are sent to Haiti to help maintain order when the government is overthrown.</p>	<p>U.S. troops prepare for a raid on an Iraqi town where terrorists are believed to be operating.</p>
<p>The Department of Agriculture puts out the Food Pyramid, which helps people plan a healthy diet.</p>	<p>The Treasury Department issues paper money and mints coins.</p>
<p>The Department of Energy provides funding for research on wind energy.</p>	<p>The Transportation Department maintains the nation's interstate highway system.</p>
<p>The Veterans Administration operates hospitals where people who have served in the military can receive health care services.</p>	<p>The Department of Labor gives \$1.9 million to the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union to train Hispanics and other immigrants for hospitality industry jobs in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, New Jersey.</p>
<p>The Food and Drug Administration requires drug companies to do multiple tests on new drugs before they can be sold in the United States.</p>	<p>Federal prosecutors seek an indictment against a company it believes is using unfair business practices.</p>
<p>The National Park Service announces the re-opening of the Statue of Liberty.</p>	<p>An immigration judge rejects the asylum application of a 16-year-old Guatemalan gang member who claims he would be murdered if he returned to his home country.</p>

<p>The National Institute on Aging funds a study on how long Alzheimer's patients live after they are diagnosed with the disease.</p>	<p>The United States maintains diplomatic relations with about one hundred-eighty countries around the world.</p>
<p>The Bureau of Land Management opens certain government-owned lands to mining.</p>	<p>The government collects and publishes information about the economy.</p>