



Unit 1: Introduction to Civics Purposes of Government

Civic Literacy



Warm Up Prompt

Respond thoughtfully:

In your opinion, what's the purpose of government?

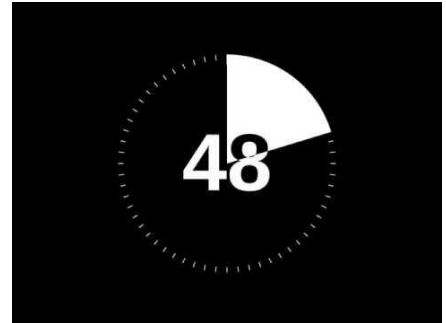
Warm Up Activity: 4 Corners

Statement: We need government.

Stand in the corner that best represents your opinion on the statement above.

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

1 minute to discuss rationales and opinions within your corner then determine 1 person to represent and share that corner's thinking/discussion.



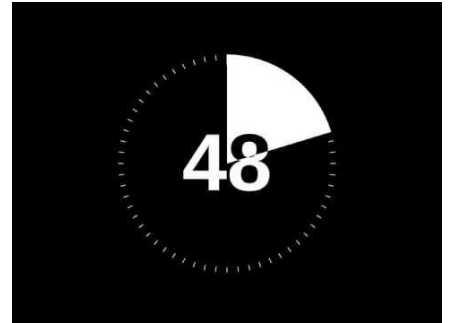
Warm Up Activity: Yay or Nay

Question: Do we need government?

Stand on the side of the room that best represents your response to the question above.

- Yay (Yes)
- Nay (No)

1 minute to discuss rationales and opinions within your side of the room then determine 1 person to represent and share that corner's thinking/discussion.





Our Purpose: Questions

Essential Questions:

To what extent should a government reflect the will of its people?

What factors create a national identity?

Compelling Question:

What does it mean to be American?

Today's Question(s):

Why do governments exist?

What roles do governments play
in society?



Our Purpose: Objective

Students will be able to...

**Explain the different roles governments play
by discussing with peers and examining
headlines.**

Agenda

- ~~1. Warm Up~~
2. Why Government & Purposes of Government
 - a. Discussion
 - b. Note-taking
3. Independent/Asynchronous Learning
 - a. Headlines
 - b. Exit Ticket



Discussion

Human Nature

Are humans born good or bad?



Discussion

Government & Human Nature

Considering your ideas on how humans are born, what role should government play?



Discussion Government

Is government necessary?



Discussion

What did you hear in the video that you agree or disagree with?

What similarities and differences did you hear hear in the video?





Why Government?

If you believe that people are **born bad**, then you'd agree with

Thomas Hobbes

- Thought humans were born greedy and brutal
- Believed without government, humans would revert a near-constant state of competition and war with one another

If you believe that people are **born neither good nor bad**, then you'd agree with

John Locke

- Believed humans were born with a blank slate, shaped by their environment
- Government should serve the people



Why Government?

Social Contract

The unspoken agreement between a government and its people that the people give up rights for governmental benefits

Thomas Hobbes

- People give up ALL rights in exchange for protection from a the government
- Believed a strong government, like a monarchy, was needed to keep people in order

John Locke

- People give up SOME rights in exchange for protection from the government
- Democratic forms of government better serve the people

All governments, no matter its structure, have a **social contract.**



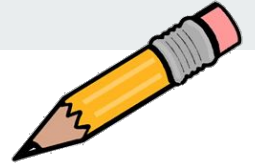
Purpose of Government: **ECONOMIC DECISIONS**

Government institutions spend money on behalf of its citizens, typically using money from those citizens (taxes).

Examples:

- Republicans in the U.S. Senate propose a \$928 trillion infrastructure plan
- Mecklenburg County board took steps to withhold \$56million from CMS (video)



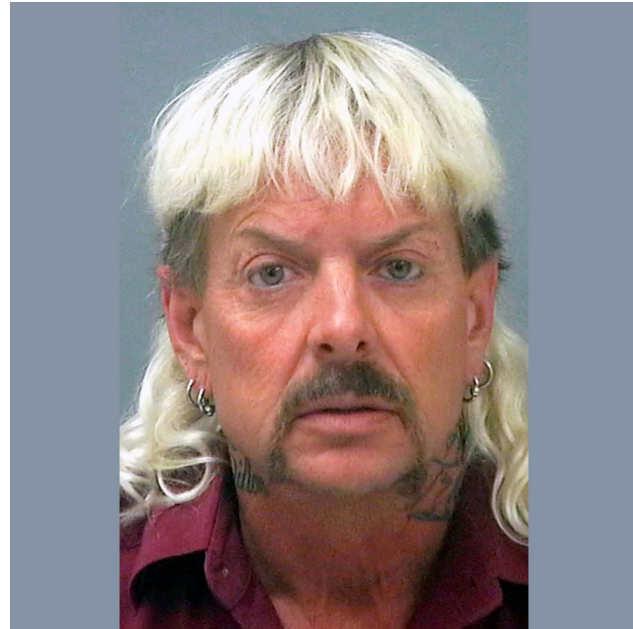


Purpose of Government: SOCIAL ORDER

Government institutions create laws and policies; when they are violated, consequences are applied to maintain social order.

Examples:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) fined a Michigan company for chemical spills
- Joe Exotic was sentenced to 22 years in prison for murder-for-hire and animal abuse (picture)





Purpose of Government: PUBLIC SERVICES

Governments provide public services at low-cost or no-cost to its residents.

Examples:

- The very public education you're enjoying right now
- Calling 3-1-1 to fill potholes or fix a street light in your neighborhood (picture)



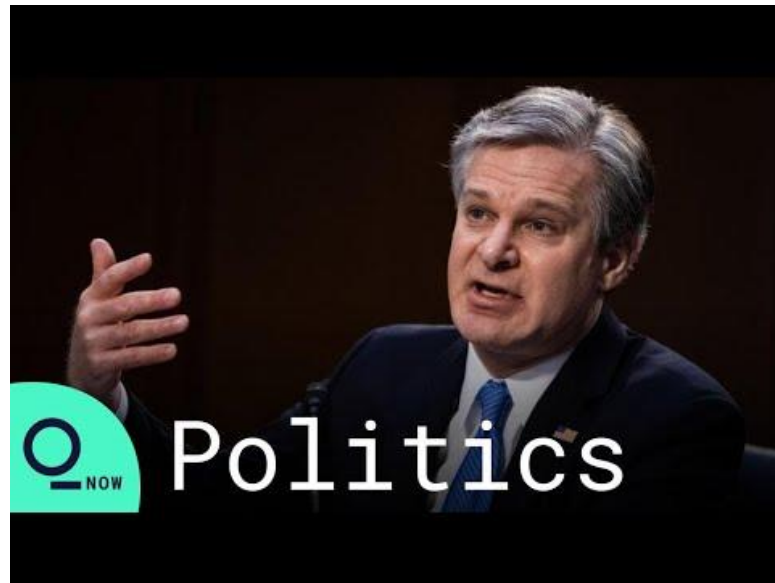


Purpose of Government: NATIONAL SECURITY

Governments keep the country secure by defending it from threats, internal or external.

Examples:

- A Visa applicant refuses to get fingerprinted when entering the country
- Radical extremists who commit acts of domestic terrorism (video)





Purpose of Government: RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

Governments often protect the rights

Examples:

- Teacher suspended after a 9-year-old Catholic student was forced to wash off the Ash Wednesday cross from his forehead
- LGBTQ and animal rights groups protest Chick-fil-A opening in Toronto (video)





Mnemonic Device: Purposes of Government

ESPN + R

ECONOMIC DECISIONS

SOCIAL ORDER

PUBLIC SERVICES

NATIONAL SECURITY

RIGHTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL

Checks for Understanding

For each headline, determine which role the government is playing.



Check for Understanding

Which role is at play in this headline?



The image shows a screenshot of a news website. At the top left is the WCNC Charlotte logo. To its right are navigation links for News, Weather, Sports, Connect, and Watch. Below these is a secondary navigation bar with links for COVID-19 VACCINE, VERIFY, WHERE'S THE MONEY, THE DEFENDERS, and HOMETOWN HI. The main content area features a 'TRAFFIC' category label, followed by a large headline: 'Charlotte transit offers free rides during gas pipeline shutdown'. Below the headline is a short paragraph: 'CATS will provide fare-free rides on their bus and train lines during the Colonial Pipeline shutdown.'

WCNC
CHARLOTTE

[News](#) [Weather](#) [Sports](#) [Connect](#) [Watch](#)

[← COVID-19 VACCINE](#) [VERIFY](#) [WHERE'S THE MONEY](#) [THE DEFENDERS](#) [HOMETOWN HI](#)

TRAFFIC

Charlotte transit offers free rides during gas pipeline shutdown

CATS will provide fare-free rides on their bus and train lines during the Colonial Pipeline shutdown.



Check for Understanding

Which role is at play in this headline?



The screenshot shows the NPR website header with the logo "npr HEAR EVERY VOICE" and "WFAE 90.7". Navigation links include "SIGN IN", "NPR SHOP", and "DONATE". A dark navigation bar contains "NEWS", "ARTS & LIFE", "MUSIC", "SHOWS & PODCASTS", and "SEARCH". The main content area features a "SPECIAL SERIES" section titled "America Reckons With Racial Injustice" with a photo of a group of people. Below this is a news article headline: "Father And Son Charged With Murder In Ahmaud Arbery Killing Are Denied Bond", dated "November 13, 2020 - 9:34 PM ET". Social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, and Email are visible on the left side of the article.

Check for Understanding

Which role is at play in this headline?





Check for Understanding

Which role is at play in this headline?



The screenshot shows the top portion of an NPR news article. At the top left is the NPR logo with the text "HEAR EVERY VOICE" and the station call sign "WFAE 90.7". To the right are links for "SIGN IN", "NPR SHOP", and a red "DONATE" button. Below this is a dark navigation bar with icons and text for "NEWS", "ARTS & LIFE", "MUSIC", "SHOWS & PODCASTS", and "SEARCH". The main content area features a social media sharing sidebar with icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, and Print. The article title is "Why Do Nonwhite Georgia Voters Have To Wait In Line For Hours? Too Few Polling Places", dated "October 17, 2020 - 5:01 AM ET", and attributed to "STEPHEN FOWLER". The byline "FROM GPB" is located at the bottom right of the article content.

n p r HEAR EVERY VOICE WFAE 90.7

SIGN IN NPR SHOP DONATE

NEWS ARTS & LIFE MUSIC SHOWS & PODCASTS SEARCH

ELECTIONS

Why Do Nonwhite Georgia Voters Have To Wait In Line For Hours? Too Few Polling Places

October 17, 2020 - 5:01 AM ET

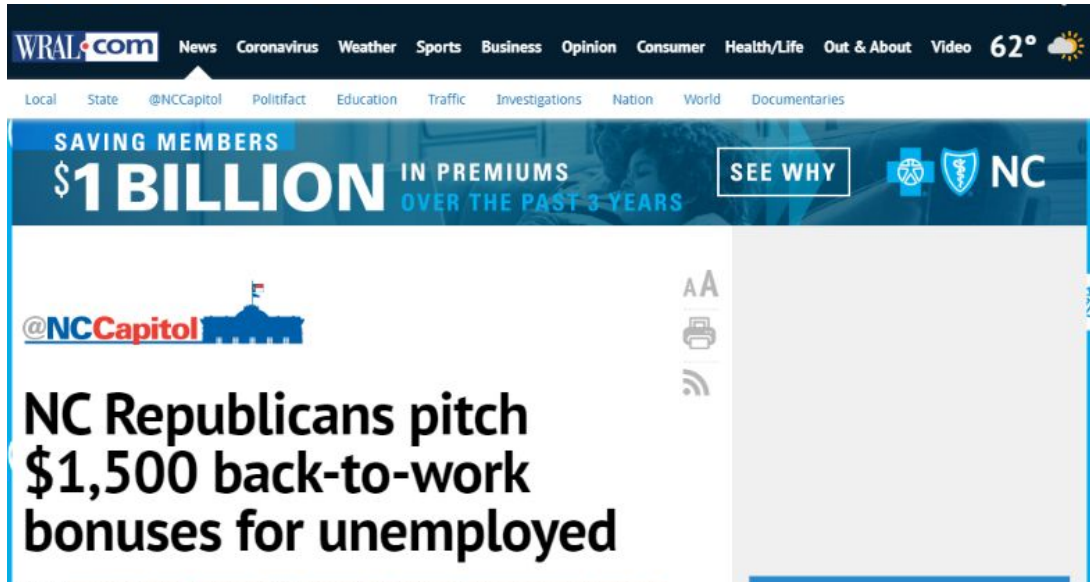
STEPHEN FOWLER

FROM GPB



Check for Understanding

Which role is at play in this headline?



WRAL.com News Coronavirus Weather Sports Business Opinion Consumer Health/Life Out & About Video 62°

Local State @NC Capitol Polittfact Education Traffic Investigations Nation World Documentaries

SAVING MEMBERS
\$1 BILLION IN PREMIUMS
OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS

SEE WHY

@NC Capitol

**NC Republicans pitch
\$1,500 back-to-work
bonuses for unemployed**

AA
Print
RSS



Our Purpose

Explain the different roles governments play by discussing with peers and examining headlines.

Today's Question(s):

Why do governments exist?

What roles do governments play in society?

Activity

Roles of Government: Headlines



Activity Share Out



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Exit Ticket
