



**MICHIGAN
CENTER
FOR
CIVIC
EDUCATION**

Civics, Law, Government Sessions 2013 Michigan Social Studies Conference

Civics--There's an App for That! Civically Engaging Students with Technology

Roy Sovis, Coordinator for Instruction, Genesee Intermediate School District

This session will review apps for civics and demonstrate web-based teaching/learning strategies. Access to a list of resources will be provided.

Courts Resolve Disputes: Small Claims Court and Mediation Simulations for Elementary

Rachel Drenovsky, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

State courts resolve disputes in many ways including civil trials, small claims court hearings, and mediation. This session will offer outlines of brief small claims and mediation simulations that can be used with elementary students. The simulations can also be used as a starting point for discussion of other types of court proceedings.

Declared to be Free: Teaching about the *Amistad* Case

Tiffany Middleton, Program Manager, American Bar Association, Division for Public Education

Howard Kaplan, Director, American Bar Association, Division for Public Education

The dramatic story of the *Amistad* case provides a fascinating look at legal standards of free and slave status in early nineteenth century America. One of the most famous cases of its time, it involved future lawyer-president John Quincy Adams and incorporated both American and international laws. Participants will discuss the story of the case, analyze related federal court documents and grapple with popular myths related to the case.

Exploring Separation of Powers and the "Rule of Law"-- A Conversation with the Honorable Michael Riordan, Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals

Honorable Michael Riordan, Judge of the Michigan Court of Appeals

Join Judge Riordan as he discusses the constitutional principle of separation of powers and its implications for the scope and limits on governmental power and the judiciary. Using court cases at both state and federal levels as examples, Judge Riordan explores several constitutional controversies that centered on the scope and limits of congressional, presidential and judicial power.

iCivics: Exploring Government through Interactive Games

Jocelyn Benson, Dean, Wayne State University Law School

Spearheaded by Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, iCivics is a web-based education project designed to reinvigorate civic teaching and learning. iCivics features free lesson plans, web quests,

discussion forums, and games. This presentation will review the free resources available on iCivics, and demonstrate how iCivics games and lessons can be used to meet Michigan Standards. Participants will play a few of the most recent iCivics game releases.

Mock Trials for the Classroom and Competition

Jeff May, J.D, Michigan Center for Civic Education

Mock Trials are a high-interest, active strategy for teaching about the American system of justice, teaching content using historical cases or contemporary issues, and for developing public speaking skills. This session will provide participants with sources for free mock trial materials as well as information and advice about competing in the Michigan High School Mock Trial Tournament.

Street Law – Teaching about recent Supreme Court Decisions

Jeff Delezenne, Teacher, Clinton High School

Do you teach about the US Supreme Court? This session will introduce you to Street Law’s easy-to-use free lesson plans covering precedents, arguments, and decisions, focusing specifically on the Florida vs. Jardines case. The session will also highlight a professional development opportunity offered by Street Law, Inc. in Washington DC.

Taking It to Court: Informal Traffic Hearings

Rachel Drenovsky, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center

Would you like a court simulation that hits close to home for students? Try informal traffic hearings. These hearings involve minor violations like speeding and make up almost half of all filings in state courts annually. They're fast-paced and students learn what to expect if they go to court. The simulations can also be used as a starting point for discussion of other types of court proceedings.

Teaching High School Civics

Alycia Chase, Teacher, West Bloomfield High School

Jennifer Simone, Teacher, Berkley High School

Are you using or thinking of using the Michigan Citizenship Collaborative Curriculum to teach high school civics? This is the session for you! Several of the writers will share their favorite lessons and activities that demonstrate the variety of instructional practices embedded in MC3. Join us as we explore a unit of study and highlight the use of textual analysis, case studies, simulations, and primary sources to improve students’ understanding of civic and law-related concepts.

“Think Deeper” - Mock Trials as a teaching tool for Civic Instruction

David A. Johnson, Instructional Consultant, Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District

In meeting the challenges of preparing students for "Civic Life", the ability to experience civics in action is crucial. Participants in this session will leave with a complete Mock Trial unit that can be used as is, or adapted for use in teaching civics to secondary students. Walk through a multi-day unit designed to help students study first-hand the elements that go into preparing for a successful jury trial. From opening statements to closing statements and everything in between, these five, multi-day lessons help students experience civics in action, and aligns to nine HSCE, and ten Common Core standards.

What Sways Voters?

Dr. Mary Herring, Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, Wayne State University

Whether your preferred candidate won or lost in 2012, chances are that at some point you have wondered why voters choose as they do. Do they choose candidates based on the candidate's policy positions? Ideology? Past performance in office? Personality? Looks? What role do primary elections play in our current election process? Join Dr. Herring as she explores the evidence regarding how and why voters make up their minds, what the evidence says about democratic theory and policy outcomes, and how money and access influence elections in the United States.