

Name: Cynthia Dube
Grade: 11 – 12 grade
Content Area: Social Studies
Business Law

CRITICAL CONTENT:

Essential Questions:

1. What is the historical foundation of the justice system in the United States?
2. How effective is the United States Constitution as a vehicle of change?
3. Under what circumstances might one justify civil disobedience?
4. How does the United States Constitution use checks and balances in order to prevent abuse of power?
5. What role does different jurisdiction play in courts in the justice system?

Unit Questions:

1. Why is the United States Constitution considered a living document?
2. How is the United States court system designed?
3. What justice does the Constitution represent?
4. What elements justify which case is heard in which court?
5. How does the Constitution keep everything in balance?
6. What elements permit special interest groups?

Theme: Justice

Generalizations:

1. Justice may leave unanswered questions.
2. Justice may cause conflict.
3. Justice may cause change.
4. Justice may not seem equal.
5. Justice has rules.

1. What is Internet law?
2. How might changes in law impact the Internet?
3. Predict what unanswered questions justice and the Internet present.

1. What are 1st amendment rights?
 2. Relate 1st amendment rights to unwanted e-mails?
 3. Justice provides for freedom of speech how might 1st amendment rights change with the Internet law?
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1. What does the U.S. Constitution provide to all in the preamble?
 2. Describe how the rights afforded to all in the U.S. Constitution are visible in everyday life?
 3. Justice provides equality for all, how can changes in the U.S. Constitution maintain justice?
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1. What is civil disobedience?
 2. Based on civil disobedience, such as that of Martin Luther King, is the end result fair?
 3. Compose an argument for/or against civil disobedience that demonstrates justice equality or inequality.
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1. How does the U.S. Constitution define checks and balances?
 2. Compare the powers of the Federal Supreme Court to those of the President and Congress.
 3. The Federal Supreme Court has final authority over Constitutional decisions. What justifies this unequal power?
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1. Explain what due process is?
 2. Show variances if any between Maine and New Hampshire state courts.
 3. Compare and contrast two state court systems, one northern state and one southern state. How is it justice if the rules are different?
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1. What is jurisdiction?
 2. How might jurisdiction interfere with business in different states?
 3. Create an argument that justice and the conflict that arises with jurisdiction is addressed in the Constitution.
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1. Do all trials have juries?
 2. Explain why a defendant might elect not have a jury trial?
 3. How might one defend unanswered questions when justice did not appear to be served in a case?
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1. What is a special interest group?
 2. How much influence should special interest groups have on lawmakers?
 3. Defend or argue against the justice for special interest groups and the unanswered questions that their involvement with legal policy makers has on decision-making.
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1. What is ethics?
 2. Compare deontological and consequential reasoning.
 3. How can justice be defended if conflict arises in the manner in which the decision is reached?