## Nickel Week At A Glance 8/19- 8/23/2024

**Unit 1:** The Foundations of American Government

**Grade Level:** 9th Grade

**Subject:** American Government

**Duration:** 1 Week (5 days, 45-50 minutes each day)

**Objective:** Students will understand the philosophical principles and historical foundations of the American political system, including the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

**Materials:**

* Textbook or online resources on American Government
* Copies of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution
* Whiteboard and markers
* Projector and computer for presentations

**Day 1: The Principles of American Government**

* **Introduction** to the course and its objectives.
* **Discussion** on the importance of government and the key principles of liberty, equality, rights, and self-government [1].
* **Activity:** Students will write a short essay on what they believe are the essential functions of government.

**Day 2: The Case for the Constitution**

* **Lecture** on the historical context leading to the drafting of the Constitution.
* **Group Work:** Students will analyze excerpts from the Federalist Papers and discuss the arguments for a strong federal government [1].

**Day 3: The Congress in the Constitution**

* **Interactive Session** on the structure and powers of Congress.
* **Simulation:** Students will role-play as members of Congress and propose a bill [1].

**Day 4: The Presidency and the Judiciary in the Constitution**

* **Presentation** on the roles of the President and the Judiciary.
* **Debate:** Students will debate on the checks and balances between the branches of government [1].

**Day 5: The Bill of Rights and Civil Liberties**

* **Discussion** on the Bill of Rights and its significance.
* **Activity:** Students will create posters illustrating one of the first ten amendments and explain its importance in protecting civil liberties [1].

**Assessment:**

* Participation in discussions and activities.
* Completion of essays and group work.
* Presentation of posters and participation in the simulation and debate.

**Extensions:**

* Invite a local government official to speak about the practical application of the principles discussed.
* Organize a field trip to a government institution or a historical site related to American Government.

**Resources:**

* Hillsdale College's "The Hillsdale 1776 Curriculum" for detailed lesson plans and activities [1].
* TeacherVision for additional teaching resources and printable materials [3].

This lesson plan provides a foundational understanding of American Government, encouraging active participation and critical thinking among students. It's adaptable to include more interactive elements or in-depth research projects based on the class's interest and pace. Remember to check for any updates or changes in the curriculum standards for the most accurate and relevant information.

Source: Conversation with Copilot, 8/5/2024

1. [School American Government and Politics - Hillsdale College](https://k12.hillsdale.edu/k12/media/Documents/High-School-American-Government-and-Politics-The-Hillsdale-1776-Curriculum.pdf?ext=.pdf)
2. [9th Grade Government and Civics Teaching Resource - TeacherVision](https://www.teachervision.com/resources/teaching-resource/9th-grade/government-civics)
3. [American Government Free Use Lesson Plans, Classroom Activities ...](https://government.mrdonn.org/lessonplans.html)
4. [Why Government? Lesson Plan for 9th - 12th Grade](https://www.lessonplanet.com/teachers/why-government)
5. [Foundations of American Government Lesson Plan for 9th - 12th Grade](https://www.lessonplanet.com/teachers/foundations-of-american-government-9th-12th)