



Reavis High School
Curriculum Snapshot/Cover Page for
Contemporary Social Issues (CSI)



Unit 1: Geography and Current Events

**8
Days**

In Unit 1, students will practice plotting basic map features such as the 50 States, 7 Continents, major bodies of water, and latitude/longitude. Students will follow news broadcasts and apply headlines to maps with the goal of making connections between geography and contemporary social issues. Students will use Atlases, iPad Geography Apps, and the RHS online database for geography.



Unit 2: Political Cartoons and Current Events

**5
Days**

In Unit 2, students will analyze political cartoons that match current events in the news. The unit will introduce students to skills/tools (such as symbolism and irony) that political cartoonists use to convey a message and tell a story. They will have guided practice at analyzing, identifying, and presenting these skills/tools.



Unit 3: Economics in the News

10
Days

In unit 3, students will learn vocabulary related to economics in the news such as recession, depression, austerity, deficit, etc. They will be able to give examples of how economics shapes social issues. Students will respond in writing and in Socratic discussion to economic events discovered in a variety of sources: magazines, podcasts, video clips, newspapers, etc. The unit will expose students to the school's database as an efficient, rich, bias-neutral research tool.



Unit 4: Genocide Awareness

12
Days

Students will define genocide and research modern/recent examples of genocide. Students will learn vocabulary related to genocide (bystander, upstander, victim, perpetrator) as they compare the Holocaust of WWII, the American Civil Rights movement of the 50s, the Rwandan genocide, Darfur, etc. The unit culminates with a field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum.



Unit 5: Immigration

5
Days

In unit 5, students will research immigration to America. They will expand their vocabulary by reading magazines, watching the news, researching the database, and exploring online sources on the topic of immigration policy. Class discussion and cooperative groups will build student communication skills and will help students develop opinions on the topic.



Unit 6: Guns & American Violence

10
Days

Students will read, research, and discuss the topic of gun violence in America. Analysis of political cartoons, statistics, magazines, and film documentaries on the topic of guns will help students take a stand on the issue of gun control.



Unit 7: Environmental Issues & Conservation

10
Days

Students will gain an understanding of the major environmental challenges facing our planet. Through multi-media research, readings, and class discussion, students will consider ramifications of (and possible solutions to) the human environmental footprint.

Unit 8: Obesity & Health in America

5
Days

Students will be gain an understanding of the American health crisis that is obesity. The unit will explore concepts of body image, materialism, overconsumption, fitness trends and habits, nutrition, advertising, education, and health care. Students will discuss the causes of and solutions to our nation's obesity problem.

Unit 9: Heroes in Current Events

5
Days

In this culminating unit of study, students will define what it means to be a hero and research examples of heroes who have helped in any of the number of social issues we followed throughout the semester. Their final exam will be a multi-media presentation to the class about their hero and the social issue that he/she helped remedy.