



Reavis High School  
Curriculum Snapshot/Cover Page for ESL Government



Unit 1: Beginnings of American Government

5 days

Students will describe the reasons for forming the American Government and identify ways the American government was influenced by ancient Greece and Rome. Students will identify ways the English government and European political thinkers influenced American government. They will describe the political ideas from the 13 colonies that became part of the American government and describe the events that led to the American colonies' decision to fight for independence. Students will name the basic rights stated in the Declaration of Independence.



Unit 2: Creation of American Government

5 days

Students will explain why the Articles of Confederation did not work and why a stronger plan was needed. They will describe what happened at the Constitutional Convention and name the five guiding principles used to write the Constitution. Students will describe the process used to ratify the Constitution and explain why the Bill of Rights was needed.



Unit 3: A Look at the Constitution

5 days

Students will name the goals described in the Preamble to the United States Constitution and explain the power given to each of the three branches of government in the first three articles. They will name the rights given to the states in Article Four and describe the process to amend the Constitution in Article Five. They will identify the rights and freedoms guaranteed to American citizens by the Bill of Rights. Students will identify the changes made to the Constitution in Amendments 11-27.



## Unit 4: The Legislative Branch

**10  
days**

Students will identify the legislative branch as one of the three main branches of the federal government. They will explain who can be elected to the Senate and House of Representatives. Students will describe the work of the Senate and House of Representatives. They will describe how a bill becomes a law and will identify the powers given to Congress by the Constitution.



## Unit 5: The Executive Branch and The President's Cabinet

**10  
days**

Students will describe the executive branch as the branch of the government that carries out laws made by Congress. Students will explain the process used to elect the president and identify his/her duties and will explain how the power of the president has changed since the Constitution was written and explain what happens if the president's office becomes vacant. Students will name and describe the responsibilities of agencies and organizations that advise and assist the president, such as: the Cabinet and executive departments.



## Unit 6: The Judicial Branch

**10  
days**

Students will identify the judicial branch as the branch that decides if the Constitution is being followed. Students will explain the types of cases heard by federal courts and describe the difference between a district court and a court of appeals. They will explain how the United States Supreme Court works and describe the importance of the Supreme Court's decisions. Students will explain how the Supreme Court can bring changes to the Constitution.



## Unit 7: The 50 States

**5 days**

Students will explain the process Congress uses to admit new states and will describe the ways territories, commonwealths, and states differ. Students will identify ways state governments are similar to the federal government. They will explain how states raise and spend money and will identify branches of state government and describe their responsibilities.



## Unit 8: Illinois Constitution

**15 days**

Students will explain the history of Illinois and name the important rivers that shape Illinois. They will identify the legislative branch of Illinois government and describe its responsibilities and structure. Students will explain the executive branch of Illinois government and name its officers. Students will identify the judicial branch of Illinois government and describe its court system. They will describe the voting system in Illinois and will identify the importance of local government. Students will explain the changes in the Illinois Constitution and name the important state symbols.



## Unit 9: Citizenship

**5 days**

Students will identify the reasons people immigrate to the United States and explain immigration laws and requirements for naturalization. Students will explain the rights, responsibilities, and duties of citizens and describe ways citizens may participate in government. They will describe interest groups and how they affect public policy and describe how civil liberties and rights are granted for citizens.