

Exploring Core Democratic Values Looking at Current Issues in the News

Lesson plan:

1. Spend time introducing the Core Democratic Values and Principles.
2. Once the class is familiar with and can define/discuss CDVs, introduce the concept in the Basic Beliefs collection of news articles or bring in articles from local papers or online news sources that demonstrate that CDVs are in play today, every day in our current events/issues.
3. Define “public policy” and differentiate from “Service Learning.”
4. Give each group of four students one article to read and discuss. Most of the articles have focus questions to facilitate a discussion in Part I of the Activity. Be ready to present (summarize, don’t read) the article to the rest of the class and tell why it is representative of the CDV at the top of the article.

Assignment: Find an article in any local newspaper or online news source (MLive, WSJ, NYT, etc.) that presents a local, state, or national public policy issue. **Print out for class and attach to this rubric.** Summarize the article. – Identify the CDV that is being debated. – Identify the level of government that would have jurisdiction in this issue. (local, state, national) **AND** the branch of government that addresses this issue Give the rationale for choosing the CDV you identified and why you said that. – Develop 2-3 focus questions that would help another student discuss the issue. – Be ready to present your article to a small group and turn in.

Exploring CDVs in the News Rubric (USE TEMPLATE)

	3 points	1 point	0 points
On time	Assignment is on time and available for class discussion	Work is posted on time, but not brought to class for discussion	Assignment is late.
Title/APA Citation (Use Template)	Article is identified using APA citation format	Article is identified by the Title, Date, News Source	Article is misidentified or not identified
Article – print and include with assignment	Included article highlights a U.S. community, state, or national public policy issue	Included article is about something other than a U.S. public policy issue (service learning, etc.)	No copy of the article turned in with assignment
Grammar, Spelling,	0-1 mistakes in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation.	2 -3 mistakes in grammar, spelling and/or punctuation don’t affect understanding.	Any amount of mistakes in writing affect understanding
Article Summary (5Ws and H) (Use Template)	Article is summarized clearly and succinctly including all important information	Article is summarized. Important info may be missing or summary includes too much info.	Article summary is missing.
CDV identified (Use Template)	CDV(s) identified correctly	Unclear choice; not really the focus of this article	CDV identified incorrectly or not identified
Rationale for each CDV (Use Template)	Rationale for each identified CDV clearly described	Rationale for identified CDV described, but may be unclear	Rationale for identified CDV not described
Level of government (Use Template)	Correctly identifies the U.S. level of government with jurisdiction	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Level of U.S. government missing/incorrect.
Branch of government (Use Template)	Correctly identifies the branch(es) of U.S. government involved	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Branch(es) of U.S. gov’t involved missing/incorrect.
Focus questions (Use Template)	2-3 focus questions that will facilitate discussion of the issue	1 focus question that will facilitate discussion	No focus questions written

Total points possible: 30; What do you think? _____ Total points earned: _____

CDVs in the News – Use this template to complete this assignment. Student work is inserted in right-hand column below for each section

Name and SST309 Section	Lauren Mogan SST 309-02 11/8/2014
Title of Article and APA Citation	The Most Bizarre Lawsuit Against Same-Sex Marriage Ever Arel, D. (2014, November 8). This Week in Religion: The Most Bizarre Lawsuit Against Same-Sex Marriage Ever. Retrieved November 9, 2014.
Complete summary of Article (5Ws and H) (Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?)	South Carolinian Don Boyd filed a lawsuit to prevent the legalization of same-sex marriage in the state. He did this because the legalization of same-sex marriage would prevent him from being a Christian. This took place this past week on November 7, 2014. According to the court documents, Boyd stated that gay marriage creates a "catch-22" that forces Christians to disobey God's Charge to warn, or in so warning disobey God's commandment to rest - "PROHIBITING the free exercise of my established religion antedating all ideas of 'gay marriage'..."
Core Democratic Value(s)	1. Liberty/ Personal Freedom 2. Equality
Rationale for <i>each</i> of the CDVs (Why does the CDV you chose fit this issue?)	1. Liberty/ Personal Freedom: The right to liberty is considered an unchangeable part of human life. At the heart of this idea is the understanding that no one can be blamed or held accountable for personal or political obligations of family or ancestors that came before them. The right to liberty includes: personal freedom - each person is free to act, think and believe as they choose without interference from the government (Also political freedom and economic freedom). This lawsuit affects the personal freedom of many men and women to marry whomever they want. It takes away from the personal freedom of those who wish to pursue a marriage based off of same-sex. 2. Equality: All people have: political equality - and are not denied these rights unless by due process of law; legal equality - and are treated as equals before the law; social equality - and there should be no class system sanctioned by law; economic equality - which tends to strengthen political and social equality. Equality is being questioned in this article based on Christian Don Boyd's belief that same-sex marriage would prevent him from being a Christian. Bringing religion up in a lawsuit discriminating against someone's sexual orientation takes away from same-sex marriages equality. It takes away from the equality of the couple. Same-sex marriage is viewed as equal before the law and, therefore, should not be sanctioned by the law.
Branch of Government indicated in this issue AND how do you know?	The state branch of government is indicated in this issue. I know this because in the article it talks about what was said in the South Carolina Supreme Court.
Level of Government with jurisdiction – AND how do you know?	The South Carolina Supreme Court (Judicial) is indicated in this issue. I know this because in the article it talks about what Boyd asserted in the court documents.
2-3 Focus questions – how would you lead a substantive discussion on this article as it relates to the Core Democratic	1. What personal freedoms will be given if the state of South Carolina passes the same-sex marriage law? 2. Don Boyd was treated equal before the law allowing him to assert his

Values?

statement before the court. Do you think there was a better way to go about it instead of filing a lawsuit? If so, explain why.