

BASIC PRINCIPLES DEFINING AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

CONTENT STATEMENT: The processes of persuasion, compromise, consensus building and negotiation contribute to the resolution of conflicts and differences.

STANDARDS:

- SS.9-12: Describe the concepts and principles that are inherent to American Constitutional Democracy.
- WHST.9-10.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- WHST.9-10.5 Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on addressing what is most significant for a specific purpose and audience.

RESOURCES:

<https://articles.bplans.com/writing-a-mission-statement/>

MATERIALS: A CIVIC LEADER MISSION STATEMENT

SEQUENCE:

- 1) Warm up: "With a partner, use the list of the principles on the board to create a description of your ideal statesperson. Remember, a statesperson is an elected official that represents all voters in their region.
- 2) Students share their fictional ideal statesperson. What does this person stand for? How do they use persuasion, compromise, consensus building, and negotiation to resolve differences with opposing positions and contribute to governing our country?
- 3) Essential question:
"How might we each convey our values and principles to others?"
- 4) Introduce the concept of a mission statement.
Definition: Often used by a business or organization, a mission statement describes how a person, organization, or business incorporates their goals and values into their actions.
Make sure that students know that a mission statement is brief in length; but includes multiple elements. Share examples.

- 5) Today, each of you will be creating your own mission statement. It will be part of your platform as a candidate running for an elected position. This statement will be used to identify what you believe, what you intend to do, and who you are as a person.
- 6) This lesson will take 2 class periods. Assessment will be based upon accurate completion of their mission statement.