

ABSTRACT

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Title: THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF A 21ST CENTURY CIVICS CURRICULUM

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Year: 2019

Civic education is an education in “self-government”, a term that specifically encourages citizens to be proactive in their government. The rudimentary memorization of the political and military history at all levels of government and fitting into the mold that the school thought best fit a “good citizen” model were the only teaching practices of this early civic education. However, researchers have found a stagnant political effectiveness throughout the years, and it is likely due to civic education and civic educators using outdated teaching methods and content. Very recently, there has been a call to reform civic education, so I have developed a detailed unit plan for a high school civic education class on how to teach the Second Amendment and gun control that uses news articles and social media as updated content. In my curriculum, I use in-class activities and readings to probe discussions, debates, and civic engagement. Social media is a necessary tool for delivering civic content because it is easily accessible, and students can explore the content on a platform with which they are familiar. My curriculum provides an answer to the civic education reform call by using reliable and current readings, effective teaching methods, and a likable delivery method via social media.