

# *Government Lesson Plan*

## *Secondary Education*

<i>Objectives</i>	<p>Following this lesson students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write about local government procedures.</li> <li>• Present specific sides of current local government issues.</li> </ul>
<i>Overview</i>	<p>In this lesson students will communicate, via Google Talk Video, with a local government official (ex: state congressman). Students will "interview" the government official about the local procedures in government and additionally about a current "hot topic." Students will then be asked to write a paper about the issue, presenting the side of the argument their official holds.</p>
<i>Materials</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Computer (one per student)</li> </ul>
<i>Procedures</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Students will be assigned a government official (contacted previously by the teacher to receive consent from the government official).</li> <li>2. Before beginning the activity students should have the following background knowledge: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge of the local government procedures.</li> <li>• Knowledge of their government official (what party do they affiliate with, what issues do they feel strongly about, how long have they been in office, etc.).</li> <li>• Knowledge of what issues are important in the local/state government at the given time of the activity.</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Students will be assigned a computer workstation and asked to sign onto their Google account and begin communication with their official.</li> <li>4. Once online, the students will be able to chat "face to face" with their government official. This will allow them to interview the official, asking questions about local procedures, basic government knowledge, and facts about the official's stance on issues.</li> <li>5. The student will also be required to find out the official's stance on a particular topic (a "hot" issue) and ask the official what steps or actions are being taken relevant to this issue. (The student should attempt to get as much in depth information here as possible).</li> <li>6. Following the conversation student's will be asked to write a paper summing up what they have learned from their official, including information on the specific issue, the official's stance and actions being taken. Students will also be required to write a thank you letter to the government official, showing appreciation for their time and efforts.</li> </ol>
<i>Grading</i>	<p>Students will be given a small participation grade for their communication during the chat. The majority of the grade will come from the paper and how well the student demonstrates knowledge of the local government, government official and the specific issue. Additionally, a small number of points will be given from writing the thank you letter.</p>

