

FP.C&G.1.4

Analyze the principles and ideals underlying American democracy in terms of how they promote freedom (i.e. separation of powers, rule of law, limited government, democracy, consent of the governed/individual rights –life, liberty, pursuit of happiness, self-government, representative democracy, equal opportunity, equal protection under the law, diversity, patriotism, etc.).

Students will understand:

1. Shared values and principles may be necessary for a group of people to progress and form a political system.
2. Principles and ideals underlying democracy are designed to promote the freedom of the people in a nation.
3. A nation may agree on values and principles philosophically, but disagree on the practical application of those same values and principles.
4. Democratic freedom requires the active participation of a nation's citizens.

Students will know:

1. Ideals that are considered fundamental to American public life (individual rights, self-government, justice, equality, diversity, patriotism, the common/public good, etc.).
2. Principles that are considered fundamental to American constitutional democracy (rule of law, representative government, shared powers, checks and balances, federalism, individual rights, etc.).
3. Significant conflicts over the practical application of American philosophical values and principles. (individual rights, individual responsibility, rule of law, federalism, equal justice under the law)
 - a. For example: disputes over the nature and morality of American slavery, the expansion of citizenship, civil rights for all individuals, state versus federal government.

Key Terminology:

- Civil society - This is that sphere of voluntary individual, social, and economic relationships and organizations that, although limited by law, is not part of governmental institutions. Civil society provides a domain where individuals are free from unreasonable interference from government. By providing for independent centers of power and influence, civil society is an indispensable means of maintaining limited government. Political and economic freedoms and limited government are interrelated. (<http://www.civiced.org/index.php?page=912erica>)