**CIVICS PACKET for the SOCIAL STUDIES TASC**

**HOW TO USE THIS PACKET:**

This packet is intended to help you prepare students for the Social Studies TASC. As a reminder, high emphasis civics topics include:

* Necessity of government and politics
* Limited and unlimited forms of government (monarchy, democracy, totalitarian states)
* Constitution and constitutional principles (popular sovereignty, majority rule, federalism, separation of powers, natural rights philosophy, separation of church and state)
* Bill of Rights
* Three branches and checks and balances
* Definition of a republic
* Rights and responsibilities of citizenship
* Judicial review and rule of law; landmark Supreme Court cases

Suggested use:

Almost all of the materials in this packet consist of Newsela articles. These are ideal for silent reading in order to help students build speed and fluency, and the quiz questions are similar to questions on the TASC Reading test. They will also work well with a multi-level class as the articles are available at a range of reading levels.

Possible uses:

* Allow students to self-select an article from each category, read, and report back to fellow students
* Organize groups of students who will read on a particular topic then report back to the class
* Read a group of articles as a whole class
* Assign articles for homework and have students take the quizzes.

**PURPOSE OF GOVERNMENT AND SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT:**

<http://wordgen.serpmedia.org/social_studies.html>

What are governments for? Social Studies Unit by Word Generation

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-purposes/id/29156/>

Newsela: What is the Purpose of Government? 6th Grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-purposes/id/29156/>

Newsela: What is the Purpose of Government? 4th Grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-comparing-governments/id/30032>

How Government Works: Comparing Governments 5th Grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-comparing-governments/id/30374/>

How Government Works: Comparing Governments 3rd Grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-republic-democracy/id/27467>

The Difference between a Democracy and a Republic Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-republic-democracy/id/27466/>

The Difference between a Democracy and a Republic Grade Level 4

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-democracy-authoritarianism/id/26183/>

Comparing Governments: Democracy vs. Authoritarianism Reading Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-democracy-authoritarianism/id/26184/>

Comparing Governments: democracy vs. authoritarianism Reading Grade Level 4

**STRUCTURE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT:**

<https://newsela.com/read/govt-checks-balances/id/24395>

Our System of Checks and Balances Grade Level 8

<https://newsela.com/read/govt-checks-balances/id/24394/>

Our System of Checks and Balances Grade Level 6 ALSO IN SPANISH

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-congress-powers/id/26689>

The Powers of Congress Grade Level 6 ALSO IN SPANISH

<https://newsela.com/read/elem-govt-president-job/id/28727>

How Government Works: The President’s Job Reading Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-state-local-government/id/30876>

The Powers of State and Local Government 6th grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-state-local-government/id/30875/>

The Powers of State and Local Government 4th grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/govt-departments-federal-government/id/24361>

The Departments that Make Up the Government 7th Grade Reading Level

<https://newsela.com/read/govt-departments-federal-government/id/24360/>

The Departments that Make Up the Government Grade Level 5

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-convo-what-are-executive-orders/id/27854>

What are Executive Orders? Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/overview-us-war-powers/id/21130>

U.S. War Powers Grade Level 7

**ELECTIONS**

<https://newsela.com/read/overview-how-the-us-elects-presidents/id/21068>

How the U.S. Elects Presidents Grade Level 7

**CITIZENSHIP:**

<https://newsela.com/read/us-citizens-rights-and-responsibilities/id/31112>

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship Reading Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/us-citizens-rights-and-responsibilities/id/31110/>

Rights and Responsibilities of Citizenship Reading Grade Level 4

**CONSTITUTION:**

<https://newsela.com/read/primary-source-constitution/id/18146>

The Constitution of the United States Grade Level 6 ALSO IN SPANISH

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-creating-the-constitution/id/30457>

Conceived of Compromises: The Constitution Reading Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-federalists-antifederalists/id/29745>

Federalists and Anti-Federalists and the Constitution Reading Grade Level 6

<https://newsela.com/read/gl-history-Race-American-Constitution/id/29185>

Race and the American Constitution Reading Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/primary-source-amendment-constitution/id/21612>

The Constitution: Amendments 11-27 Reading Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/primary-source-billofrights/id/18276>

Primary Sources: The Bill of Rights Reading Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/primary-source-marbury-madison/id/18449>

Marbury vs. Madison Reading Grade Level 8

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-national-power-vs-states-rights/id/30144>

Tipping the Scales Toward National Power Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-first-amendment/id/26624>

How First Amendment Rights Have Evolved Reading Grade Level 8

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-history-nineteenth-amendment/id/25916>

The History of the 19th Amendment Reading Grade Level 8

**Supreme Court:**

<https://newsela.com/read/overview-us-supreme-court/id/21167>

Issue Overview: Supreme Court Reading Level 8

<https://newsela.com/read/lib-ushistory-how-justices-chosen/id/26352>

How Judges and Justices are Chosen Grade Level 8

<https://newsela.com/read/travel-ban-appeals-court/id/26857>

Appeals Court Blocks Trump’s Travel Ban Grade Level 7

<https://newsela.com/read/school-church-state-separation/id/29688>

Supreme Court Toes the Line Between Church and State