



# Parent Guide to Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies for High School

## Mission Statement:

The Kansas Standards for History, Government, and Social Studies prepare students to be informed, thoughtful, engaged citizens as they enrich their communities, state, nation, world, and themselves.

- An informed citizen possesses the knowledge needed to understand contemporary political, economic, and social issues.
- A thoughtful citizen applies higher order thinking skills to make connections between the past, present, and future in order to understand, anticipate, respond to, and solve problems.
- An engaged citizen collaborates, contributes, compromises, and participates as an active member of a community.

## History, Government, and Social Studies Standards

1. Choices have consequences
2. Individuals have rights and responsibilities
3. Societies are shaped by beliefs, ideas, and diversity
4. Societies experience continuity and change over time
5. Relationships between people, places, ideas, and environments are dynamic

These standards outline the expectations for Kansas students in all classes and courses in History/Government/Social Studies (HGSS). These standards and expectations lay out the skills and knowledge that are being developed through the curriculum and instruction of your local school district.

## Classes that may be taken . . .

Geography	Comparative Government	Humanities
World History	Current Events	Philosophy
Kansas History	Psychology	International Affairs
US History	Sociology	Criminal Justice
Civics	Economics	Or Other Particular Topics
US Government		

## At this grade level . . .

The social studies classes that students take will vary, but should include aspects of history, civics, geography and economics. Students should be challenged by their teachers daily to make judgements and draw connections to things going on in the world today. Students should be reading difficult books and articles. Students should be asked to do research and build their own knowledge about the particular social studies topic covered. Student should use primary source documents, evaluating, analyzing, and drawing conclusions in order to make a claim

## Students should be learning to . . .

- Comprehend, analyze, and interpret, difficult complex discipline specific text
- Demonstrate an understanding of competing values and the tensions that exist between them
- Make a sophisticated claim and support their position using evidence and argument
- Write a well-organized argument advocating or defending an interpretation or position on a topic
- Engage in construction of their own knowledge, disciplined inquiry, and making connections to the real world
- Acquire information by conducting personal research to address a real world problem
- Explain the relationship between history, economics, geography, and government when addressing contemporary issues
- Apply civic virtues and democratic principles in working with others
- Apply appropriate decision making process both individually and with a group
- Draw connections between academic knowledge and real world issues
- Collect, organize, categorize, and construct understanding of current events
- Demonstrate a variety of ways of knowing including academic and experiential knowledge