

APPENDIX 3: CIVIC LITERACY

We offer below a sample list of facts and topics that ought to be included in high school and college civics courses, so as to provide readers a more concrete sense of what we mean by civic literacy. Other organizations are also working to revive civic literacy: their efforts include the Joe Foss Institute's Civics Education Initiative, which works to have all 50 states require that high school students pass a version of the United States Citizenship Civics Test;⁹²² and the Intercollegiate Institute's efforts embodied in its Civic Literacy Exam.⁹²³ We endorse their efforts—and we are very glad to note that the Joe Foss Institute's Civics Education Initiative has already (2016) passed into law in Arizona, Idaho, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, and Wisconsin.⁹²⁴ We add this list in a collegial spirit.

CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

1. Legislative: powers, numbers, methods of selection, terms of service
2. Legislative: apportionment of Senators and Representatives among the states
3. Judiciary: powers, numbers, methods of selection, terms of service
4. Executive: powers, numbers, methods of selection, terms of service
5. Executive: Order of Succession to the presidency
6. High crimes, misdemeanors, and removal from office
7. Federal powers
8. State powers
9. Individual citizens: Enumerated and unenumerated rights
10. Individual citizens: Enumerated and unenumerated responsibilities

AMERICAN GOVERNANCE

1. The Cabinet
2. Political Parties
3. Judicial interpretation

922 Joe Foss Institute, Civics Education Initiative, http://chiesman.org/images/uploads/Civics_initiative_slideshow.pdf.

923 Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Civic Literacy Exam, <http://www.isi.org/quiz.aspx?q=FE5C3B47-9675-41E0-9CF3-072BB31E2692>.

924 Joe Foss Institute, The Civics Education Initiative, <http://joefossinstitute.org/civics-education-initiative/>.

4. Military Service
5. Administrative law
6. Taxation
7. Local Government
8. Law codes: Federal, State, civil, common
9. Media
10. Juries

AMERICAN CONCEPTS

1. Civilian control over the military
2. Civil rights
3. Free-market economy
4. Legislative supremacy
5. Limited government
6. Property
7. Representative government
8. Republic and democracy
9. Rule of law
10. Separation of powers

FOUNDATIONAL DOCUMENTS

1. Mayflower Compact (1620)
2. English Bill of Rights (1689)
3. The Declaration of Independence (1776)
4. The Constitution (1787; additions 1791-)
5. *The Federalist* (1787-1788)
6. Northwest Ordinance (1787)

7. George Washington, *Farewell Address* (1796)
8. Andrew Jackson, Bank Veto Message (1832)
9. Declaration of Sentiments, Seneca Falls (1848)
10. Abraham Lincoln, The Gettysburg Address (1863)

HISTORICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL FACTS

1. 50 States: names, locations, capitals
2. 13 original states
3. Slave states and free states
4. Borders: Neighboring countries and oceans
5. Major Rivers: location
6. Religious denominations: historical geography
7. Settlement and Immigration: historical geography
8. Flag: appearance, iconography
9. Holidays: names, dates, origins
10. National Anthem: name, lyrics, origin

HISTORICAL ERAS

1. Settling of Colonial America
2. American Revolution
3. Jacksonian Era
4. Civil War
5. Progressive Era
6. World War I
7. World War II
8. Cold War

9. Civil Rights
10. 9/11: War on Terror

BIOGRAPHICAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Benjamin Franklin
2. George Washington
3. Thomas Jefferson
4. James Madison
5. Andrew Jackson
6. Abraham Lincoln
7. Woodrow Wilson
8. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
9. Martin Luther King, Jr.
10. Ronald Reagan

FOREIGN POLICY KNOWLEDGE

1. Monroe Doctrine (1823)
2. Mexican-American War (1845-48)
3. John Hays, Open Door Note (1899)
4. Roosevelt Corollary (1904)
5. Woodrow Wilson, Fourteen Points (1918)
6. Lend Lease (1941); The Atlantic Charter (1941)
7. Long Telegram (1946), Truman Doctrine (1947), Marshall Plan (1948), NATO (1949)
8. John F. Kennedy, Inaugural Address (1961)
9. Ronald Reagan, The Evil Empire (1983)
10. NAFTA (1994), World Trade Organization (1995)

11. JUDICIAL DECISIONS

1. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
2. *McCullough v. Maryland* (1819)
3. *Dred Scott v. Sandford* (1857)
4. *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
5. *Lochner v. New York* (1905)
6. *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)
7. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)
8. *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
9. *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008)
10. *Obergefell v. Hedges* (2015)

CURRENT KNOWLEDGE

1. Name and Party of the President
2. Name and Party of the Vice President
3. Name and Party of the Speaker of the House
4. Name and Party of the Senate Majority Leader
5. Name and Party of Governor
6. Name and Party of Senators
7. Name and Party of Representative
8. Name and Party of Mayor, Selectmen, or County Administrator
9. Location of City Hall or County Administration Building
10. Procedures to Attend Meeting of City Council (or equivalent)