

Exploring Core Democratic Values Looking at Current Issues in the News

Lesson plan:

1. Spend time introducing the Core Democratic Values and Principles.
2. Once the class is familiar with and can define/discuss CDVs, introduce the concept in the Basic Beliefs collection of news articles or bring in articles from local papers or online news sources that demonstrate that CDVs are in play today, every day in our current events/issues.
3. Define “public policy” and differentiate from “Service Learning.”
4. Give each group of four students one article to read and discuss. Most of the articles have focus questions to facilitate a discussion in Part I of the Activity. Be ready to present (summarize, don’t read) the article to the rest of the class and tell why it is representative of the CDV at the top of the article.

Assignment:

Find an article in any local newspaper or online news source (MLive, WSJ, NYT, etc.) that presents a local, state, or national public policy issue. **Print out for class and attach to this rubric.**

Summarize the article.

Identify the CDV that is being debated.

Identify the level of government that would have jurisdiction in this issue. (local, state, national) **AND** the branch of government that addresses this issue

Give the rationale for choosing the CDV you identified.

Develop 2-3 focus questions that would help another student discuss the issue.

Be ready to present your article to a small group and turn in.

Exploring CDVs in the News Rubric

	3 points	1 point	0 points
On time	Assignment is on time and available for class discussion	Work is posted on time, but not brought to class for discussion	Assignment is late.
Title/APA Citation	Article is identified using APA citation format	Article is identified by the Title, Date, News Source	Article is misidentified or not identified
Article	Article highlights a U.S. community, state, or national public policy issue	Article is about something other than a U.S. public policy issue (service learning, etc.)	No copy of the article turned in with assignment
Article Summary (5Ws and H)	Article is summarized clearly and succinctly including all important information	Article is summarized. Important info may be missing or summary includes too much info.	Article summary is missing.
CDV identified	CDV(s) identified correctly	Unclear choice; not really the focus of this article	CDV identified incorrectly or not identified
Rationale for each CDV	Rationale for each identified CDV clearly described	Rationale for identified CDV described, but may be unclear	Rationale for identified CDV not described
Level of government	Correctly identifies the U.S. level of government with jurisdiction	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Level of U.S. government missing/incorrect.
Branch of government	Correctly identifies the branch(es) of U.S. government involved	Unclear choice or reason; not really the focus of this article	Branch(es) of U.S. gov’t involved missing/incorrect.
Focus questions	2-3 focus questions that will facilitate discussion of the issue	1 focus question that will facilitate discussion	No focus questions written

Total points possible: 27; Total points earned: _____

Responses:

Name and SST309 Section	Sarah Farquhar SST 309-05
Title of Article and APA Citation	Michigan Senate approves Bridge Card ban at strip club, liquor store, race track ATMs Oosting, Johnathan. (2013, October 22). Michigan Senate approves Bridge Card ban at strip club, liquor store, race track ATMs. <i>mLive</i> . Retrieved from http://www.mlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2013/10/michigan_senate_approves_bridg.html
Complete summary of Article (5Ws and H)	The Michigan Senate is seeking to pass a law that would block Bridge Card holders from withdrawing cash from ATMs located at liquor stores, race tracks, and strip clubs. Bridge Cards are designed to help low-income families in Michigan receive food or cash benefits and pay for the “necessities of life”. This law would require the Department of Human Services to work with the companies that provide ATM services to create a program that would block cash withdraws at these locations. Officials say that although it is unclear how often Bridge Cards are used at these locations, the change is necessary to prevent misuse of the benefits and so the families continue to get funding. There are 13,000 ATMs that provide Bridge Card benefits in Michigan, and 285 of those ATMs are located at a store with the word “liquor” in its title. If this law was passed by the Senate, stores whose food sales account for half of its total sales would be exempt from this ban. Senator Morris Hood III, one of the Senators to vote against the bill, said he supports the ban of Bridge Card use at strip clubs and race tracks, but he says that liquor stores may be the only access point for residents in urban areas to receive their benefits. The new Bridge Card legislation is now headed to the House for consideration.
Core Democratic Value(s)	Common Good
Rationale for <i>each</i> of the CDVs	This article on the Bridge Card ban in Michigan directly relates to the CDV of Common Good because the Michigan State Senate is trying to eliminate the misuse of the Bridge Card so that Michigan residents can continue to receive benefits that they need for their families. The Common Good is aimed to benefit the good of the community and improve things for everyone. If people are abusing the cash withdraw benefits of the Bridge Card and using the money for strip clubs, race tracks, and liquor, then it will go against the purpose of the program and ruin it for the families who use it for good reasons.
Branch of Government indicated in this issue AND how do you know?	The Branch of Government indicated in this issue is the Legislative branch. The Legislative branch makes all laws, declares war, regulates interstate and foreign commerce and controls taxing and spending policies. I know that this issue falls under the responsibilities of the Legislative branch because it is directly related to spending policies, and it is a new law that is being made.
Level of Government with jurisdiction – AND how do you know?	This is in the State Level of Government because it is being processed directly through the Michigan Senate. This is under general jurisdiction because the courts have a broad range of authority to make decisions.
2-3 Focus questions – how would you lead a substantive discussion on this article as it relates to the Core Democratic Values?	How does this issue relate to the Common Good? What other CDV’s could this issue represent? Why? How is the Michigan Senate working to improve the Common Good by passing this law?

