

Merrimack School District  
Essential Learning Competencies

School	MHS
Discipline	SS
Course Title	Contemporary Issues

Quarter 1

Essential Learning Competencies	Links to the Rubrics/Standards/ Competency	Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
✓ Identifying Bias in Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How do you consume the news?</li> <li>✓ In what ways can the news media show bias?</li> <li>✓ What are the benefits and drawbacks of social media as a news source?</li> <li>✓ What type of practices can help all of us be better consumers and producers of news?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Media Consumption Self-Assessment</li> <li>✓ Media Website Exploration Activity</li> <li>✓ Media Bias Exploration</li> </ul>	✓ Media Bias Coverage Compare/Contrast focusing on amount of coverage, arguments presented and pundits presenting information
✓ Digital Resource Credibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How do you identify Primary vs. Secondary sources?</li> <li>✓ How do you conduct an extended document analysis?</li> <li>✓ How do you determine source authority?</li> <li>✓ How do credibility tests and understanding Wikipedia's editing model help you become a better researcher?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Determining Authority Activity</li> <li>✓ Digital Credibility Challenge</li> <li>✓ Wikiality Watch</li> <li>✓ SOAPStone vs HIPPO</li> </ul>	✓ Identifying False Claims
✓ Politics & the Political Spectrum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do know where you stand on the political spectrum?</li> <li>✓ Do you know which Political Party's platform closely mirrors your own?</li> <li>✓ Do you know which Presidential Candidate has values that are close to yours?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Political Personality Analysis</li> <li>✓ Compare/Contrast styles of governmental leadership</li> <li>✓ Compare/ Contrast Political Parties &amp; 2020 Platforms</li> </ul>	✓ Create a Candidate & Convention Speech
✓ Community Issues & Issue Analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Do you attempt to stay informed on local issues (state or town)?</li> <li>✓ What resources do you (or can you) use to stay informed locally?</li> <li>✓ Do we have an obligation as residents of this town (or state) to know the issues?</li> <li>✓ Even further, should we actively engage in helping our community?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Local Media Show &amp; Tell</li> <li>✓ Community Issue Brainstorm</li> </ul>	✓ Issue Analysis & Action Plan


Quarter 2

Essential Learning Competencies	Links to the Rubrics/Standards/Competency	Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Quarter 3

Essential Learning Competencies	Links to the Rubrics/Standards/Competency	Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			

Quarter 4

Essential Learning Competencies	Links to the Rubrics/Standards/Competency	Formative Assessments	Summative Assessments
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			