

US GOVERNMENT TEACHER RESEARCH OVERVIEW

Dear Teachers: Thank you for agreeing to distribute the surveys to your U.S. Government classes. We would like you to distribute the survey now and then a second survey (which we will send you later) in a few weeks. We plan to use the surveys to better understand how students' understanding of civics and government changes over time.

We are providing you with a teacher script, a set of information sheets to share with your students, and a set of student surveys to distribute to your students.

Here's what we would like you to do:

- Read the beginning of the teacher script to each of your government classes. The script introduces the research project and then asks you to distribute the information sheet to students.
- Distribute the information sheet to students and ask them to read it. (You can also read aloud the information sheet together as a class if you prefer that approach.)
- After they have had time to read the information sheet, continue with the rest of the teacher script. At the end of the teacher script, you will distribute the survey.
- At the top of the surveys, there is a line for information about "School," "Teacher," "Class Period," and "Student ID#." You can fill in this information before distributing it to students OR, you can have students fill this information in when they receive the survey. The latter approach assumes that students would know their unique #. (By the way, the reason we are asking for this student ID # is so that we can link each student's responses to the first survey administration with their responses at the second survey administration. And we want to do all this, while maintaining the confidentiality of the students—that is, we wouldn't know which student answered in which way, because we don't know their numbers.)
- When you distribute the surveys to students, please spend just a minute explaining what we are asking them to do—in effect, they will circle a number from 1-5 depending on whether they strongly agree with the statement (1), somewhat agree (2), Neither agree nor disagree (3), somewhat disagree (4), or strongly disagree (5). You can let them know that there are not right or wrong answers on this—we want their honest responses.
- After the students are finished with the survey, please put their responses in the envelope we are sending along.

Thanks so much for your help with this. We will be sure to share the survey results from your classes with you at the end of the unit.