

AP U.S. GOVERNMENT

John L. Deans
Pleasant Grove High School
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LESSON PLAN

Key Phrases and Hungry Hippo Competition

TARGET CLASS DESCRIPTION

This lesson plan is designed for AP U.S. Government which is being taught at Pleasant Grove High School to juniors and seniors. These students are high-achieving students who are preparing for the AP Examination.

OVERALL GOAL

Provide highly motivated students with a method to master the key phrases that are contained within a series of eight AP Practice Examinations. The goal is to learn key phrases, documents, court cases, and institutional components using collaborative teams and intense competition. During the past year the presentation of this lesson over an eight week period provided an excellent method for reviewing key phrases learned throughout the year and instilling confidence in AP testing. Students gain knowledge and acquire a comfort level of the majority of vocabulary, phrases, court cases, and other descriptions used in the AP tests.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF LESSON FORMAT

This lesson is to reinforce key phrases used throughout the course and to review their use in AP Examinations. The lesson further reinforces the key phrases by using them in a collaborative team learning activity involving intense competition. The Hungry Hippo Game is played using flash cards (A sample pack is enclosed).

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION ORDER

1. Key Phrases worksheet is passed out to each previously created team. Each person receives a copy, but they may work collaboratively to write out each answer. This may be done in class or taken home and returned.
2. AP Practice exam that corresponds to the Key Phrase worksheet is administered using the strict AP timing and exam guidelines. This process is repeated until the key phrase worksheets covering each category have been completed.

3. After key phrase worksheets and examinations have been taken, the focus is on the Hungry Hippo Competition. The number of key phrase worksheets and practice examinations depends on the material. We used eight in preparing for the competition.

4. Hungry Hippo Competition usually takes about four entire class periods to allow each pair to compete and to allow for playoffs and championship rounds. Winners are announced.

SPECIAL EQUIPMENT NEEDED

In my class I have eight timers and eight bells that are used at each station. The classroom becomes a loud, fun arena for competition with bells ringing, shouting, and cheers. If you can't stand excitement, yelling, and intense learning, this lesson is not for you. Have fun!

ATTACHMENTS

1. Key Phrases I Worksheet
2. Peterson AP Practice Examination #3
3. Key Phrases Worksheets 2-5 and accompanying tests
3. Hungry Hippo Competition Rules
4. Hungry Hippo Competition Scorecard