Overview NSL Government Semester A

Thinking & Literacy Skills Pre-assessment: <i>Purposes</i> of Government	 What are the purposes of government? How does political ideology influence how individuals see the role of government? Students will analyze documents and write to demonstrate their proficiency with the components of close reading, document analysis and argumentative, text-based writing, as well as their understanding of the purposes of government.
Unit 1 Structures and Powers of U.S. Government	To what extent does limited government assist or impede the functioning of government? Students learn the types of government, analyze the foundational principles of government that influence the structure and function of government, focusing on the legislative and executive branches, and analyze the effectiveness of government responses requiring cooperation between different levels and branches of government. Highlighted Principles: Limited Government, Federalism, Separation of Powers, and Checks and Balances
Unit 2 Participation in the Political Process	 Why is citizen participation essential to democracy and how can citizens effectively participate? Students analyze the foundational principles of government that provide authority to the U.S. government, learn how participation in a democracy shapes the common good, including voting and organizing to promote beliefs and interests, examine how political parties, media, and groups influence government policy and public opinion, and analyze the processes, structures, and influences on American elections. Highlighted Principles: Representative Democracy, Majority Rule, Consent of the Governed, and Popular Sovereignty
Unit 3 Establishing Justice and Protecting Rights	 How and why have rights and equity in the U.S. been established and interpreted over time? Students learn the structure and powers of the judicial branch and analyze how and why the rights of citizens and equal protection have been established and changed over time through the actions of the courts, the executive branch, legislation, and citizens. Highlighted Principles: Judicial Review, Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and Equal Protection