

Lesson 14:

Citizen Participation Today

Teacher Version

Essential Question

Why is jury service one of the important ways citizens participate in government today?

Lesson Bridge

Review Lesson 13: Colonial Forms of Political Participation

- Voting
- Jury Service
- Militia Service
- Leadership and Public Service

Bridge Question:

- How do citizens participate in government today?

Hook Question

How do citizens participate in government today?

Key Vocabulary

Introduce and clarify the following terms:

- Political Participation
- Voting
- Jury Duty
- Due Process
- Speedy and Public Trial
- Double Jeopardy

Reading and Text Coding

P = Political Participation

J = Jury Service

C = Constitutional Rights

I = Important Information

- Teacher Modeling—I Do
- Guided Practice—We Do
- Independent Practice—You Do

Directed Note-Taking Graphic Organizer

Category	Evidence (paragraph #)	What this evidence shows
Why Citizens Participate in Government Today		
Jury Service as a Civic Responsibility		
Constitutional Protections for Jury Service		
Preparing Citizens for Participation		

Video Segment (10 minutes)

Video: [John Adams](#)

Teacher Prompt: “In today's text, we learned that citizens participate in government in many different ways, including serving on juries. We also learned that the Constitution protects the right to trial by jury. Now we are going to meet John Adams, one of America's Founding Fathers, who once said, ‘Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty. Without them we have no other fortification against being ridden like horses, fleeced like sheep, worked like cattle, and fed and clothed like swine and hounds.’ He believed that no one should be denied the right to a fair trial. As a lawyer, he even defended British soldiers in court, despite his fierce opposition to British rule. As you listen and watch, think about why John Adams believed ordinary citizens should play an important role in government and why jury service was so important to protecting freedom.”

Note: The biography and video introduce students to John Adams and his strong patriotism, including the belief that no one should be denied the right to a fair trial. The text remains the primary source for understanding ways citizens participate in government today.

Video Segment (10 minutes)...cont'd

- ***Students complete Handout #4 while watching.***
- ***Teacher prompts (after video and biography):***
 - “Why do you think John Adams believed no one should be denied the right to a fair trial?”
 - “What do you think John Adams meant when he described representative government and trial by jury as 'the heart and lungs of liberty'?”
 - “How did John Adams participate in government and public life?”
 - “How do John Adams' ideas connect to the ways citizens participate in government today?”

Interpretive Discussion

- ***Teacher Prompt:*** “Which of the ways citizens participate in government today seems most important?”
- ***Students discuss:***
 - Voting
 - Jury Service
 - Contacting Elected Officials
 - Leadership and Public Service

Interpretive Discussion...cont'd

- ***Teacher Prompt (after students talk):*** “Today's text focused on jury service as one way citizens participate in government today. John Adams once described representative government and trial by jury as 'the heart and lungs of liberty.' Based on what you've read and learned, why do you think he chose those words?”

Debate: Why is jury service important? (10-12 minutes)

Position statements:

- Position A: Jury service is more important than other ways citizens participate in government because it protects the rights of citizens.
- Position B: Jury service is more important than other ways citizens participate in government because it is a responsibility of all citizens.

Note: The Directed Note-Taking categories provide evidence students may use to support either position.

Debate: Why is jury service important? (10-12 minutes)...cont'd

The Debate Question

John Adams once called representative government and trial by jury "the heart and lungs of liberty." Based on the author's evidence, is jury service more important than other ways citizens participate in government because it protects the rights of citizens or because it is a responsibility of all citizens?

Debate Directions

Choose one position and explain why you believe it best reflects the author's message. Support your position with evidence from the text, the John Adams biography, or the video.

Final Writing Prompt

Revolutionary Writers Essay: John Adams and Jury Service

*John Adams, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, once said:
“Representative government and trial by jury are the heart and lungs of liberty.”
Do you agree with John Adams that trial by jury is one of the most important ways
citizens participate in government and protect liberty?*

Students should write a paragraph that:

- states whether they agree or disagree with John Adams’ statement.
- explains why they agree or disagree.
- uses evidence from the text, biography, and video.
- explains how jury service is one important way citizens participate in government today.

Final Writing Prompt...cont'd

Important: This essay is the primary assessment for Lesson 14 and also serves as one of nine potential student essays for the FIREWORKS250 Revolutionary Writers Essay Competition for students with teachers participating in cohort 2. Participating teachers should save all student essays. Students will select their best essay at the end of the year to submit for the competition.

Closure (5 minutes)

- **Teacher prompt:** “Today we learned that citizens participate in government in many different ways. We focused on jury service because it is one important way ordinary citizens participate directly in government while helping protect constitutional rights.”
- **Turn-and-Talk:** “Do you agree with John Adams that trial by jury is one of the most important ways citizens participate in government and protect liberty? Why or why not?”
- **Exit Ticket:** “What is one way citizens participate in government today, and why is it important?”