

TITLE OF LESSON

American Government Unit 2 Lesson 42 – Mr. Smith Goes to Washington
Does Democracy Work?

TIME ESTIMATE FOR THIS LESSON

One class period

ALIGNMENT WITH STANDARDS

California – History 12.3, 12.7

MATERIALS

Mr. Smith Goes to Washington – Video (you can rent this video at almost any video store)
Smith Video Worksheet – Student Page
Smith Video Worksheet Key – Teacher Page
Teacher Notes Lesson 42 – Teacher Page

LESSON OBJECTIVES

- To use the film as a critique of the democratic system
 - To compare events in the film with the activities in class regarding the Model Congress, Lobbying, and getting involved project
-

FOCUS AND MOTIVATE STUDENTS – WARM-UP ACTIVITY

- 1) Homework Check – Stamp/initial complete homework assignments. Pass back graded work and have students place in the appropriate section of their binders.
 - 2) **Agenda** – Have students copy the goal, agenda and homework onto the next clean page in a notebook
-

ACTIVITIES – INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP

1. Final Exam – Usually by this time students have been asking about the final exam. Try to keep the information about the final exam to a minimum except that it will be unique. Explain that today's lesson and in Lesson 44, they will be watching a film that will help set up and frame their final exam. To prepare for the final, they need to make sure that they have all of their papers and notes in order. In regards to studying, have them focus on the central questions that you have discussed in class – What is democracy? Is the United States a democracy? Is democracy fair?
 2. Video Introduction – Pass out the **Smith Video Worksheet** (student page) and review the story, main characters, and questions that will need to be answered. The goal for today is to finish enough of the film to answer all of the questions in Part I on the worksheet.
 3. Video – Start the film as soon as possible since there will be many scenes to watch in order to get through most of the story. See the **Teacher Notes Lesson 42** for a breakdown of the film and what scenes to skip. Your goal for today is to make it through Part 3 at least and as much of Part 4 as possible.
 4. Homework – If you do not have enough time to go over the information on the worksheet at the end of class, have students finish it for homework. Also, remind them that they need to get their evaluations completed on their portfolios and that they are due in the next lesson.
-

HOMEWORK

- 1) Complete the student and staff evaluations of the portfolio by Lesson 44.

2) Complete the identifications and Part I of the **Smith Video Worksheet**.

GROUP ROLES

None

DOCUMENTATION FOR PORTFOLIO

Unit 1

Action Plan

Persuasive Essay or Flash Argument: Why should government care...?

American Government Unit 1 Final Exam

Unit 2

Political Beliefs Project

Service Requirement Check-Ins

Model Congress Bill on GIP Issue

Field Trip Worksheet

Letter to a Government Official

Final Portfolio Project