

## **Alignment to History-Social Science Content Standards California Supreme Court Hearings**

Preparing students to view the hearings and their subsequent discussion of the event, offer excellent learning opportunities that address 12<sup>th</sup> grade standards for Principles of American Democracy. Those with particular relevance to either the experience or the televised cases are given below. From the standards:

### **Principles of American Democracy**

Students in grade twelve pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American government. They compare systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations of the constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government. An emphasis is placed on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments, with particular attention paid to important historical documents such as the Federalist Papers. These standards represent the culmination of civic literacy as students prepare to vote, participate in community activities, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship.

12.1 Students explain the fundamental principles and moral values of American democracy as expressed in the U.S. Constitution and other essential documents of American democracy.

\*Note sub-standards # 5 and 6.

12.2 Students evaluate and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.

\*Note sub-standards # 1, 3 and 5.

12.4 Students analyze the unique roles and responsibilities of the three branches of government as established by the U.S. Constitution.

\*Note Sub-standards # 5 and 6.

12.5 Students summarize landmark U.S. Supreme Court interpretations of the Constitution and its amendments.

\*Note sub-standards # 1, 2, 3 and 4.

12.7 Students analyze and compare the powers and procedures of the national, state, tribal, and local governments.

\*Note sub-standards # 1 and especially 7.

12.10 Students formulate questions about and defend their analyses of tensions within our constitutional democracy and the importance of maintaining a balance between the following concepts: majority rule and individual rights; liberty and equality; state and national authority in a federal system; civil disobedience and the rule of law; freedom of the press and the right to a fair trial; the relationship of religion and government.