Civics Independent Project

Hello Students,

This resource packet includes a project that you can work on independently at home. You should also have project packets for some of the other courses you are enrolled in. These projects are standards-aligned and designed to meet the Remote Learning instructional minutes guidelines by grade band.

High school project packets are available for the following courses:

- English 1
- Algebra
- Biology
- US History
- English 2
- Geometry
- Chemistry
- World Studies
- English 3
- Algebra 2
- Physics
- Civics
- English 4

| High School Civics Project: Battle of Modern Day Federalism - Comparative Policy Analysis of State Response to COVID 19 |
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| **Estimated Time** | ~225 min |
| **Grade Level Standard(s)** | **SS.IS.1.9-12**: Address essential questions that reflect an enduring issue in the field.  **SS.IS.4.9-12**: Gather and evaluate information from multiple sources while considering the origin, credibility, point of view, authority, structure, context, and corroborative value of the sources.  **SS.IS.5.9-12**: Identify evidence that draws information from multiple sources to revise or strengthen claims.  **SS.IS.6.9-12**: Construct and evaluate explanations and arguments using multiple sources and relevant, verified information.  **SS.IS.7.9-12**: Articulate explanations and arguments to a targeted audience in diverse settings. |
| **Caregiver Support Option** | Assist with the reading and interpretation of articles and analysis. Serve as primary source interviewee, suggest other family / community members (who can be reached by phone) who can serve as primary source interviewees. |
| **Materials Needed** | All questions and work should be done on a separate piece of paper and you will need a writing utensil, this packet; telephone (if possible). |
Activity 1: Unpacking the Question for Exploration | In this activity, you will begin to address the Question For Exploration “Who has power to influence, make, and change public policy?”. Please document your thinking to these three prompts in your journal.

A. Please jot down your initial thinking on who has the power to influence, make, and change public policy? Where relevant, note where you learned this information (i.e. from your civics class, from current events, from a family or community member?).

B. Please review the diagram below that illustrates how powers are divided between the Federal Government and State Governments. Based on this visual:
   a. What powers does the Federal government have to influence, make, and change policy?
   b. What powers do State governments have to influence, make, and change public policy?
C. Consider what you have seen about how the government (both federal and state) is responding to COVID-19. Please write at least three questions that you have about the powers of the Federal Government and State Government to address this crisis.

**Activity 2: Understand, Analyze, and Assess the Question for Exploration** In this activity and through a series of steps, you will investigate our question for exploration, “Who has power to influence, make, and change public policy?” through engaging in secondary and primary source analysis and research.

**Primary Source Inquiry and Information Gathering**

A. Identify three people from your community to interview to advance your investigation of our Question for Exploration, specifically related to the COVID-19 crisis. These should be people who know your community well. These can be people you live with or people that you can reach on the phone.

B. Please record the following information for each interview in your journal: Who is this person (name, age, relationship to you, number of years in the community)

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1 https://www.britannica.com/topic/federalism
C. Draft 3-5 questions you’d like to ask your interviewees to help your investigation of the Question to Explore: Who has power to influence, make, and change public policy? and its relationship to government responses to COVID-19 (e.g. How do they think IL is responding to COVID-19? Could/should they do something different? Do they think the IL Government is acting within its power? What do they know about restrictions and/or protests in other states? What do they think of them? Etc.)

D. Conduct your interviews and record the answers to your questions on loose leaf paper, a journal, or Google Docs.

**Primary Source Information Synthesis**: Document your reflections to these questions on loose leaf paper, a journal, or in Google Docs.

E. What answers in the interviews really resonated with you? Why did they stick out? What did you learn? Cite three examples.

F. How effective has Illinois’ or the federal government’s responses been to COVID-19 from the perspective of your interviewees?

G. What new understandings did you develop from these interviews?

H. How do the answers that you received connect to the Question for Exploration, “Who has power to influence, make, and change public policy?”

I. What questions do you still have in regards to how state government(s) have responded to COVID-19?

**Secondary Source Analysis - State response:**

J. Please read and annotate each news article regarding government responses to combat / slow the COVID-19 crisis.

**Secondary Sources**

- **Document 1**: How Illinois responded to coronavirus compared with other states
- **Document 2**: See Which States and Cities Have Told Residents to Stay at Home
- **Document 3**: 43 states now have stay-at-home orders for coronavirus. These are the 7 that don't.
- **Document 4**: America's incomplete coronavirus shutdown
- **Document 5**: While other states order residents to stay at home to stem coronavirus, Washington resists; here’s why

**Secondary Source Information Synthesis**: Document your reflections to the following questions in your journal.

K. From the sources you read, what passages really resonated with you in regards to how the state of Illinois is responding to COVID-19? Write at least three passages in your journal. Why did they stick out? What did you learn? What new questions or thoughts did these passages provoke?

L. From the sources you read, what passages really resonated with you in regards to how other states are responding to COVID-19. Write at least three passages in your journal. Why did they stick out? What did you learn? What new questions or thoughts did these passages provoke?

M. How do the readings help you understand the powers of state governments to influence, make, and change public policy in response to COVID-19? (Refer back to Activity #1 for a reference on Federalism)
N. What connections do you see across the readings? How does the response to COVID-19 by the Illinois state government compare to other states?

**Primary and Secondary Source Information Synthesis:** Document your reflections to these questions on loose leaf paper, a journal, or in Google Docs.

O. Document any themes or patterns you identified across the interviews you conducted in regards to how people perceive Illinois’ responses to COVID-19.

P. Document any themes or patterns that you identified across the sources you read for ways state governments are responding to COVID-19.

Q. Return to the questions you developed in Activity 1C and Activity 2Be. Have they been answered through your secondary research? If not consider what additional sources (primary and secondary) you can explore to find answers. Let your teacher know if you run into challenges.

R. How did the primary and secondary sources help you understand the Question to Explore, who has power to influence, make, and change public policy?

**Activity 3: Communicating Conclusions** | In this activity, you will take all the information you have gathered during your investigation and begin to synthesize it in order to Communicate your Conclusions to the Question for Exploration, "Who has the power to influence, make, and change public policy?" You will follow the GRASP format for this piece of the project:

- **G** [Goal] = To help the Governor understand the role of the State of Illinois in responding to the COVID-19 crisis.
- **R** [Role] = You are the hired Policy Analysis Expert to the Governor’s office because of your knowledge, expertise, analysis, and planning skills
- **A** [Audience] = The Governor of the state of Illinois, their staff, and your community
- **S** [Situation] = You have been hired as the Policy Analysis Expert for the COVID-19 crisis management team in the Governor’s office
- **P** [Product] = You will demonstrate a thorough understanding of federalism, and provide a report detailing the State of Illinois and other states’ responses to the COVID-19 crisis.

PLEASE communicate the following synthesis and conclusions in a well prepared, well written comparative policy report that responds to the following questions.

A. In what ways have states responded similarly to COVID-19? What are those strategies and what is their rationale (reasoning)? [Cite all evidence]

B. In what ways have states responded differently to COVID-19? What are those strategies and what is their rationale (reasoning)? [Cite all evidence]

C. Which policies/state responses being implemented do you think are most effective to combatting the crisis? Why? Which do you think are least effective? Why? [Cite all evidence]

D. What 2-3 next steps should the state of Illinois take to combat COVID-19? Why?

**Activity 4: Reflection**

A. How has your thinking of the Question to Explore: Who has the power to influence, make, and change policy? changed over the course of the project? How have the similarities and differences of state responses to COVID-19 informed your thinking?
B. How has completing this project helped you answer or changed your understanding of the Participate Civics course essential questions
   a. Who has power in our democracy, why do they have it, and how do they use it?
   b. How can I exercise power by participating in our democracy?

SOURCES:
Document 1: How Illinois responded to coronavirus compared with other states, Chicago Tribune, KORI RUMORE, April 17

Compared with the rest of the country, Illinois responded quickly to the coronavirus crisis, issuing a stay-at-home order, closing nonessential businesses and banning gatherings for its almost 13 million residents. When will these measures start to be lifted and how? Gov. J.B. Pritzker has addressed how to answer those questions. As have national experts. The Tribune will keep track of those efforts here.

Stay-at-home order: California was the first state to demand its residents stay home, but Illinois became the second state to institute far-reaching statewide restrictions ordering residents to stay home as of 5 p.m. on March 21. Many in Illinois have observed the order, but warm weather coupled with open trails, beaches and parks along the lakefront in Chicago enticed residents to forgo social distancing measures. Mayor Lori Lightfoot immediately closed these areas — causing some internet memes depicting her enforcing the state’s stay-at-home order and clearing citizens from the public way. As the White House’s coronavirus coordinator warned Cook County could become a hot spot for a rapid increase of cases, Lightfoot cautioned Chicago could expect up to 40,000 hospitalizations as a result of the virus. Pritzker extended the stay-at-home order through the end of April and estimated the spread of the disease would peak later in April. As Illinois recorded over 10,000 new coronavirus cases, the governor and Chicago’s health commissioner, Dr. Allison Arwady, called for people heading out of their homes to wear face masks as officials focus on slowing the virus. When asked how the city will determine when the stay-at-home order can be phased out, Lightfoot said, “We’re a long way away from that.”

Closing schools: Almost half of the states closed their schools on March 16, just one day before all kindergarten through 12th grade schools — public and private — in Illinois were closed. This shutdown was scheduled to last until May, but Gov. Pritzker canceled the rest of the school year on April 17. Illinois joins almost 30 states that have ordered or recommended the cancellation of the remainder of the school year. Two more are closed indefinitely. For Chicago Public Schools, it’s the second shutdown this school year, following an 11-day teachers strike in October. Vaughn High, in Portage Park, was shut March 9, after officials announced that a classroom aide who had traveled on a cruise ship the previous month had tested positive for the infectious disease and been hospitalized. Illinois schools began making the transition to remote learning on March 31, but the closures left some schools scrambling to set up remote or e-learning options for students and guide parents who have never home-schooled. Questions about how to provide equal access for all students became even more pressing. The Illinois State Board of Education gave districts a lot of leeway in how to provide remote instruction and how to account for student work.

Closing nonessential businesses: Pritzker’s order lists dozens of business categories considered essential, from gas stations, hardware stores and banks to food production and accounting services.
Such companies are encouraged to remain open while other businesses were told to cease operations beginning March 21, unless their employees can work from home. Questions have been raised, however, about what really constitutes an essential business. Chicago has already received hundreds of complaints about nonessential businesses operating in violation of the order — including Bikram Yoga West Loop, which said it stayed open because it was a place of “health and wellness.”

What actions should be taken by critical workers who must still show up for work? Under its new guidelines for essential workers, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that exposed employees take their temperatures before their shifts, wear face masks and practice social distancing at work. They also are advised to stay home if they are ill, not share headsets or other objects used near the face and refrain from congregating in crowded break rooms. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation’s top infectious disease expert, also half-jokingly suggested we should never shake hands again. “I mean it sounds crazy, but that’s the way it’s really got to be,” he said. “Until we get to a point where we know the population is protected” with a vaccine.

Banning gatherings: The White House issued guidelines on March 16, recommending the avoidance of social gatherings of 10 or more people. Five days later, after greatly reducing the number of people allowed to gather as called for in the state’s stay-at-home order, all public and private gatherings in Illinois were banned. A Chicago case study, highlighted in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s weekly mortality report, explains how gatherings — large or small — can lead to a proliferation of coronavirus cases between households in a community. Before shelter-in-place orders and social distancing measures had been implemented in Illinois to curtail the spread of the coronavirus, a man with a mild respiratory illness shared a takeout meal with a couple of close friends mourning the death of a relative in Chicago. The next day, the man attended the funeral. A few days later, he joined another family for a birthday party. The man later tested positive for the coronavirus. Within a matter of days, he had close contact with several people at these family gatherings and apparently infected 10 people, according to an investigation by the Chicago Department of Public Health. Three died after catching the virus, according to the report. Pritzker cast doubt on this year’s warm weather festivals.

Restaurant and bar limitations: After a weekend in which St. Patrick’s Day revelers attended bar crawls — despite the cancellation of parades and Chicago’s annual river dyeing — and the number of people testing positive for the coronavirus neared 100, Pritzker mandated all restaurants and bars in the state closed for dine-in business as of end of day on March 16. Some decided to stay open by fulfilling takeaway, delivery or curbside orders only. Many other states also quickly banned dine-in options. West Virginia, however, was a holdout. On March 16, before anyone in the state tested positive for the coronavirus, Gov. Jim Justice told his state’s residents to continue with their daily activities. “If you want to go to Bob Evans and eat, go to Bob Evans and eat,” he said during a news conference that day. The following day, the state confirmed its first case of the virus and Justice demanded all restaurants in West Virginia be closed before midnight on March 17.

Health policy initiatives: Medicare, Medicaid, all group health plans, and individual health insurance policies are required to cover testing and associated visits related to the diagnosis of coronavirus during the federally-declared emergency period as part of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, which was signed March 18. The Kaiser Family Foundation notes this new federal law also creates
a federal emergency paid sick leave program through December 2020. Some states have also implemented their own policies, “requiring insurers to cover a COVID-19 vaccination with no cost-sharing if and when one becomes available,” or “requiring state-certified insurance carriers to waive patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 treatment, as well as treatment for other related conditions, including pneumonia and the flu,” according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Illinois has not yet pursued these measures. Illinois is one of many states across the country that has struggled to test for the new virus amid a national shortage of testing kits and supplies. Pritzker acknowledged this week that Illinois has fallen far short of processing 10,000 tests a day for the virus, a goal he laid out in late March.

Document 2: Excerpt of: See Which States and Cities Have Told Residents to Stay at Home, New York Times, By Sarah Mervosh, Denise Lu and Vanessa Swales, April 20, 2020

In a desperate race to stunt the spread of the coronavirus, millions of Americans have been asked to do what would have been unthinkable only a few months ago: Don’t go to work, don’t go to school, don’t leave the house at all, unless you have to.

The directives to keep people at home, which began in California in mid-March, quickly swept the nation. Today, residents in a vast majority of states, the Navajo Nation and many cities and counties are under instructions to stay at home as much as possible, in an act of solidarity that public health experts say is crucial to controlling the virus.

This means at least 316 million people in at least 42 states, three counties, 10 cities, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are being urged to stay home. See how the directives spread across the country [visual to the right]:

The orders — or lack thereof — have divided the American public. In a handful of more rural states — Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota — governors held off on imposing stay-at-home orders, favoring other restrictions amid intense pressure to take stricter action. A few other states have partial orders in place, issued locally by cities or counties.

In other states, the orders to stay at home have lasted for weeks, drawing political ire and intensifying concerns about the economy. Conservative demonstrators have taken to statehouses and city streets across the nation, in defiance of the stay-at-home orders they are protesting.

Still, the number of Americans under instructions to stay at home has persisted at an astonishing level this spring, accounting for a stunning 95 percent of the population
It may seem like the entire United States is shutting down and staying indoors due to the coronavirus pandemic. But some parts of the country are still holding off.

As of April 6, 43 states and Washington, D.C. have issued stay-at-home or shelter-in-place directives for all residents to help contain the spread of the deadly virus. About 300 million Americans — more than 90% of the population — are under orders to stay indoors.

That leaves seven states that have not declared statewide orders, even after the U.S. has reported more than 347,000 confirmed cases across all 50 states, and more than 10,000 deaths.

Even in states without official stay-at-home orders, most governors have closed non-essential businesses and imposed some restrictions, such as banning large gatherings. In some cases, cities or counties have taken the initiative to go beyond statewide measures.

Those with stay-at-home orders allow several exemptions, including grocery shopping, outdoor exercise and jobs that are considered essential. Several governors who have resisted statewide orders pointed this out, saying it wasn’t necessary to issue a rule that sounds more dramatic than it is.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, has pushed for all 50 states to have stay-at-home orders. "If you look at what's going on in this country, I just don't understand why we're not doing that," he told CNN. But Fauci said Monday he had spoken to the governors of two states without such orders, Iowa and Nebraska, and concluded that the rules they’ve issued are “functionally the same” as a stay-at-home mandate.

President Trump has made clear that he doesn’t plan to intervene, saying he wants to let governors make decisions for their own states. "We have a thing called the Constitution, which I cherish," he said in a White House briefing on Saturday.

These are the states that still have no stay-at-home policy. All coronavirus statistics are current through the afternoon of April 6. This article will be updated as states announce new policies.

Arkansas: Governor Asa Hutchinson, a Republican, said that targeted responses to certain communities are better than a statewide order. He questioned the effectiveness of stay-at-home orders in other states, calling them "an illusion" because residents still leave home for shopping, and many even continue to go to work. "The question is, 'Are you accomplishing anything by doing that order?'" Hutchinson said April 2. Hutchinson also defended his decision by pointing out that Arkansas has fewer cases than many states that issued such orders. Benton — a suburb of the state's capital and largest city, Little Rock — and surrounding Saline County issued a stay-at-home order for minors. Little Rock has a night curfew for all residents, and a youth curfew during the day. Arkansas has reported 854 cases and 16 deaths.

Iowa: Documents released April 1 by the office of Governor Kim Reynolds, a Republican, show that the state is using a 12-point scale to decide whether to issue a stay-at-home order. The scale considers factors such as the ages of people with infections, the number of hospitalizations and the rate of long-term care outbreaks. According to the documents, the governor would issue a statewide
order if 10 points are scored on the scale — which has yet to happen. In the meantime, the governor has temporarily closed many businesses, and banned gatherings of more than 10 people. Health care professionals in Iowa have been calling for her to issue a statewide order. Iowa has reported 946 cases and 25 deaths.

Nebraska: Governor Pete Ricketts, a Republican, said that the right approach for his state is responding county-by-county when there are signs of community spread. He noted, though, that other governors had been urging him to issue a statewide order. So far, 56 of the state’s 93 counties — covering more than 80% of its population — have enacted health measures in response to coronavirus cases. Nebraska has reported 409 cases and 8 deaths.

North Dakota: Governor Doug Burgum, a Republican, has not issued statewide orders to stay at home, though he did temporarily close bars, restaurants, theaters, schools, and other venues and businesses. “It’s not about staying home, it’s about avoiding contact,” the governor said March 25, while adding that he was open to different guidance if the situation changes. He said North Dakota was "blessed" compared to other states because of its relatively low number of cases. Even so, Burgum later expressed frustration that some people in the state were not taking social distancing seriously. North Dakota has reported 225 cases and three deaths.

South Dakota: Governor Kristi Noem, a Republican, said statewide orders would limit the rights of individuals in her state. "South Dakota is not New York City," she said in a press conference April 1, later urging residents "not to turn on the news and look at NYC and think that that's what Lemmon, South Dakota is going to face in a month." "The calls to apply for a one-size-fits-all approach to this problem is herd mentality. It's not leadership." She also suggested that following social distancing orders should be voluntary. "The people themselves are primarily responsible for their safety," she said. "They are the ones that are entrusted with expansive freedoms. They're free to exercise their rights to work, to worship, and to play. Or to even stay at home, or to conduct social distancing." Noem stood by her stance even after acknowledging that up to 70% of her state's population could contract the virus — and that a stay-at-home order could slow the spread. South Dakota has reported 288 cases and four deaths.

Utah: Governor Gary Herbert, a Republican, issued a voluntary initiative to stay home, but not an official statewide order. "We think we have enough fear about this without adding to it," he said, suggesting a voluntary directive was a "more positive route." Several counties — including Salt Lake County, the state's most populous — have issued their own stay-at-home orders. Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson called for Utah's leaders to declare a statewide rule. Utah has reported 1,605 cases and eight deaths.

Wyoming: Governor Mark Gordon, a Republican, said March 30 he has no plans for a statewide order — though if one came, it would be "a true stay-at-home order" without multiple exemptions. Some counties and towns put out their own orders, including the popular skiing destination, Jackson. Wyoming has reported 210 cases and no deaths.
By Friday morning, the governors of New York and California had ordered — with significant exceptions — all their residents to stay home, to try to limit, as much as possible, the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Other states soon followed: New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois. At least 1 in 5 Americans have been ordered to stay home.

Residents of Western Washington, where the outbreak hit first and, initially, hardest, have not. Instead,
Gov. Jay Inslee is doing everything he can to keep people from leaving the house without outright ordering it. “I’m asking you, and you may say I am pleading with you, to stay home; stay home unless it is necessary that you go out,” Inslee said at a teleconference Friday. “I am exercising every ounce of the bully pulpit authority that I have. If anyone is living a normal life today, you are not doing what we need for you to do if we are going to save lives in this state,” Inslee said, adding that a legally binding order could still be coming if people don’t change their habits.

Officials here say the steps they have taken — closing schools, restaurants and theaters; banning large gatherings; and urging people to stay home — are tantamount to the “stay home” orders other states have issued, even as they’re not as stringent and don’t go quite as far. During a March 19 video conference interview with Seattle Times reporter Dan Beekman, Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan discusses policies in Seattle and Washington state and how they differ from “shelter in place” policies in other areas.

“People are using inconsistent nomenclature,” Seattle Mayor Jenny Durkan said in a Thursday interview with The Seattle Times, referring to the “shelter in place” orders in other cities and states. Other states, even the ones with the strictest orders in effect, still allow people to leave the house for grocery shopping, for walks and even to go to “essential” workplaces. “We absolutely need people to stay at home unless they need to go out,” Durkan said. “But if we need to turn the dial more, we will.” There is a difference, though, between urging people to stay home and ordering it.

“Shelter in place is very powerful and I think does drive home a message to an individual that it’s about them,” said David Postman, Inslee’s chief of staff. “Messaging does have an effect, we know for sure.” Postman said they’ve had lengthy and technical discussions about whether to issue such an order, but don’t feel it’s necessary yet to shut down more businesses. “There are profound economic consequences to families in the state of Washington if we make a decision of that nature,” Inslee said.

Inslee on Friday cited state traffic data as evidence that social distancing is happening in some parts
of the state, although not as much as is needed, he said. Traffic is down 61% on the 99 tunnel through Seattle and it’s down 59% on the 520 bridge, according to the Washington State Department of Transportation. But it’s only down 34% on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge, and only 28% on State Route 167 in south King County. “This is not enough,” Inslee said. During a March 20 press conference, Washington governor Jay Inslee answered a question on why the state has not yet issued a “shelter in place” order.

There have been 1,524 confirmed cases of the virus in Washington and 83 deaths, the state Department of Health said Friday, an increase of 148 cases and nine deaths in the last day. Whereas Washington has urged all businesses to allow employees to work from home, New York and California have ordered it. Whereas Washington officials continue to plead with residents to stay home as much as possible, New York and California have ordered it, albeit with those exceptions. “Shutting things down as much as possible is the only approach we have, especially short term,” said Arnold Monto, a professor of epidemiology and global health at the University of Michigan. The most important thing, Monto said, is to ensure social distancing happens as soon as possible, regardless of what is mandated or not.

Even things like local culture and mores can play into the orders that may be necessary, Monto, a former adviser to the World Health Organization, said. “It’s so hard to assess exactly what is necessary or what cause and effect is in terms of some of these approaches,” Monto said. “I think things depend on local attitudes and local adherence to recommendations. You’re in a place where people wait for the walk indicator at crosswalks, whereas if you did that in New York, you’d have a different response.”

Public Health — Seattle & King County, in a prepared statement, said the measures already in place here “have already significantly restricted the activities of King County residents, similar to what might be accomplished via a shelter in place order.”

“Our strong directives regarding events and retail in King County,” the agency wrote, “have been effective in limiting close social contact and reducing spread of disease.”

Judith Malmgren, a Seattle epidemiologist, said the directives aren’t clear enough — that people don’t understand what is allowed and what is not. “As a citizen, I’m confused,” Malmgren said. “Everybody is confused. And that’s where the ‘stay at home’ order is clarification.”