

Constitutionally Speaking promotes civics education in New Hampshire. This issue focuses on the NH Primaries, our new Teacher's Guide and DVD, and Constitution Day.

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Constitutionally Speaking

Primary Engagement

November 2015

Dear New Hampshire Civics Educator,
Our event celebrating Constitution Day at the Capitol Center for the Arts featuring Supreme Court journalist Nina Totenberg was a smashing success! It was good to see so many of you present! Please [email me](#) with descriptions and photos of how your classroom and school celebrated Constitution Day 2015!

In this 100th first-in-the-nation NH primary election cycle, there are many ways to get your students engaged in civics and the democratic process! There are events at our community colleges featuring presidential candidates, a New England College conference for high school and college students and politicians in January in Manchester, a course at UNH, workshops at Saint Anselm on Feb. 12 and March 16, and the list

goes on. Please read about all these opportunities below.

Our Teacher Feature this week is written by two Concord High School social studies teachers, Chris Herr and Tristan Black-Ingersoll, creators of the Constitutionally Speaking Teachers' Guide II, (now available [on our website!](#)) Complementing this guide and also accessible on our updated website is the DVD entitled New Challenges to an Age-Old Document. Please email me if you would like a hard copy of the DVD sent to you.

As always, I welcome your comments on our events and resources.

Your colleague,

Martha

Martha Madsen, Ed.M.

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Elementary students celebrated Constitution Day by performing "Shh! We're Writing the Constitution."

Teacher Feature

Teachers Create Guide for Constitutionally Speaking II

Over the last year Constitutionally Speaking organized a series of civic education events available to students and the general public focusing on the interpretation of the Constitution over time and its impact on American life. More specifically, these events provided opportunities for participants to investigate constitutional issues focusing on the debt ceiling, conditional spending programs, campaign finance reform and marriage equality. In order to extend these learning opportunities further into the classroom, we designed the Teacher's Guide to incorporate these topics into units of study for students in grades 9-12. The goal of this teacher's guide is to improve student interest, engagement and achievement in the analysis of the philosophical, legal and social issues surrounding the interpretation and application of the Constitution in modern America.

The organization of the teacher's guide is consistent amongst all units and is focused around one or two essential questions, a variety of learning activities that can be modified and/or rearranged to fit diverse and differentiated classrooms, and a variety of summative assessment suggestions to allow students to demonstrate their mastery of constitutional knowledge and critical thinking skills in a multitude of formats. In addition, each unit provides ample opportunity for analysis of the relevant Supreme Court cases through a consistent case study procedure. Lastly, the entire teacher's guide is aligned to the K-12 Social Studies New Hampshire Curriculum Framework, the College, Career, and Civic Life C3 Framework for Social Studies State Standards and the Common Core. The essential questions that guide all student investigation in the teacher's guide are as follows:

- Does the Constitution give the President the authority to continue borrowing money in excess of the debt ceiling in order to avoid default?
- Should the President continue borrowing money in excess of the debt ceiling in order to avoid default even if the Constitution does not expressly grant the President authority to do so?

- Do federal conditional spending programs violate the principles of federalism embodied in the Constitution?
- Does the danger of corruption justify restricting the use of money as a form of political speech under the First Amendment?
- Should marriage equality be protected by the Fourteenth Amendment?

Our hope is that teachers will use the guide as inspiration and/or as a framework to facilitate student investigations of modern constitutional issues in order to increase civic education and engagement in New Hampshire.

Chris Herr, Tristan Black-Ingersoll
Concord High School

Constitutionally Speaking and John Gfroerer's Accompany have collaborated to create a DVD, New Challenges to an Age-Old Document, edited from Constitutionally Speaking events over the past year. The DVD's themes coincide with the latest Teacher's Guide and it is a rich reference for teachers and advanced students.

[Download the guide.](#)

[Watch the videos.](#)



Nina Totenberg Talks About Upcoming Supreme Court Term, Politics, at Constitutionally Speaking event



Nina Totenberg (left), Justice David Souter and Robin Young
Photo by Allegra Boverman/NHPR

National Public Radio's award-winning legal affairs correspondent Nina Totenberg regaled a capacity crowd at the Capitol Center for the Arts on October 2, with observations about the Supreme Court, politics, and a story about the return of her father's valuable violin.

Totenberg was interviewed by WBUR's Robin Young, host of Here & Now. The event was sponsored by the New Hampshire Supreme Court Society as its annual King Lecture.

Totenberg said in response to a question from Young that June 2014 was a rare time in her career monitoring the Court. "There are few times when there is that kind of thunderous opinion as same-sex marriage, much less Obamacare 2 and some other important decisions. You could probably count on two hands the number of opinions since 1965 that are of that importance, and that everybody understands from the very beginning are of that importance."

She shared some personal anecdotes of her encounters with Justices outside of the courtroom, including David Souter, who attended the event.

The last portion of her talk focused on the return of her father's violin. Roman Totenberg was a noted violinist who had used a rare Stradivarius violin for decades. One night, after a concert in Cambridge, MA, the instrument was stolen.

For 35 years, there was no word of the violin. Then Nina Totenberg got a call from the FBI in June of this year, saying that they had recovered the instrument. You can hear her tell the story in [this video on the CS website](#). You can also listen to [an episode of Here and Now](#) with Young and Totenberg on the WBUR website.



Souter, Gregg and Hassan Headline Event on Presidential Primary, Civic Engagement



(left to right) Sen. Judd Gregg, Justice David Souter and Ross Gittell, Chancellor of the NH Community College System, were among the speakers.

The Community College System of New Hampshire's "Touching the Future: the Presidential Primary 1916-2016" presented "Civic Engagement and Education in American Democracy," at Nashua Community College on October 26th. Gov. Maggie Hassan, Justice David Souter, and Senator Judd Gregg were featured guests.

Jamie Merisotis, CEO of the Lumina Foundation, presented evidence that a more educated population is also a more civically engaged population with a higher percentage of voters. Tom Raffio, Co-chair of the NH

coalition for Business and Education, announced New Hampshire's 65 by 25 College Attainment Goal; by 2025 the aim is to have 65% of our adult population with a diploma from an institution of higher education.

A panel of community college students and a Milford High School student posed excellent questions to the speakers. Judd Gregg advocated for a formal and rigorous civics curriculum K-12, as our system is sufficiently complex as to require serious study. He described the positives of the digital media (the availability of knowledge to many) as well as its negatives: information with no filter, no "fact-checker." Gregg noted that students need to learn to evaluate the validity of sources, as there is much misinformation on the internet. He shared a perception that the screamers seem to dominate the political discussion and the political climate does not often reward compromise; emotion and entertainment frequently overwhelm reason.

Justice Souter argued that one-half of a year of civics in high school is not enough; New Hampshire students need civics education at all levels, beginning in kindergarten. Lamenting that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the US population does not know that are three branches of government, Souter posed the possibility that --if we do nothing to change the current apathy and ignorance of civics-- in 50 years we may not recognize our government as the democracy it was intended to be. Souter advised young people to attend their local Town Meetings, to learn to weigh different positions and arguments using reason, and to trust that reason is possible. He quoted two of our Founding Fathers:

"A Republic, if you can keep it." -- Benjamin Franklin

"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be." -- Thomas Jefferson



Justice Souter signed autographs for the students.



UNH First! Understanding New Hampshire's Presidential Primary

Students who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate. In addition to online discussions, students will be invited to participate in real-time social media chats with the instructors. We may also host some face-to-face events in the fall.

It's been 100 years since New Hampshire held its first presidential primary, and the story of this preeminent political contest is packed with

colorful personalities and interesting anecdotes. In this course you'll learn about the history of the presidential nomination process, the role New Hampshire plays in the media's coverage of elections and how the state is often a proving ground for unknown candidates and fledgling political operatives.

Through a combination of video lectures, interactive activities and online discussions, we will explore the unique qualities of New Hampshire's First-in-the-Nation presidential primary and its impact on how the United States picks its presidents.

Dante Scala and Andy Smith are go-to sources for anyone curious about New Hampshire's presidential primary. Journalists around the world have them on speed dial. The books they've written are must-reads for political junkies. They've spent decades pondering the who, what and why of the primary. Scala and Smith are also funny and adept at explaining complex electoral issues to a general audience.

This course is appropriate for political junkies of all ages, but we've included special materials for high school and middle school teachers who would like to use parts of this course in their classrooms.

[Sign up here.](#)



New Hampshire Primary Student Convention

January 4-6, 2016
Radisson Hotel, Manchester, NH

Presented by New England College, the 2016 New Hampshire Primary Student Convention – a one-stop-shop venue for college and high school students and presidential candidates – will be hosted at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH on January 4-6, 2016. This public event will be open to students from all over the country and will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of New Hampshire’s “first in the nation” presidential primary process.

The state’s “first in the nation” primary status is an enviable advantage when it comes to presidential politics. Every four years Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Conservatives, Moderates, Progressives, and others engaged in American government seek the state’s approval. It’s not a small group... in 2012, 44 candidates filed for the New Hampshire Presidential Primary. The NH Primary Student Convention brings everyone involved in the campaign process to one location.

The 2016 New Hampshire Primary Student Convention promises to be full of great opportunities for engaged students. To get involved, [visit this website](#), email StudentConvention@nec.edu, tweet using @NHPSC and #FITN, or friend us on Facebook at New Hampshire Primary Student Convention.

To register, please [go to this website](#).



Harvard's Robert Putnam to speak on the Opportunity Gap, *Our Kids*.

January 7, 2016, 5 - 7 pm
Manchester Community College

As part of the NH Community College Granite State Conversations focusing on issues important to America’s Future, Robert Putnam will be discussing “Our Kids, The Opportunity Gap” at Manchester Community

College on January 7th from 5-7pm. For more information and to RSVP, please contact events@ccsnh.edu

[Read about Robert Putnam here.](#)



Making Primary Politics Transparent in the Classroom and Community

February 12, 2016
New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Saint Anselm
College Campus
Manchester

Open to teachers and to the public

Featuring: Dante Scala, Professor of Political Science, UNH
Andrew Smith, Professor of Practice in Political Science, UNH
Jennifer Lucas, Professor of Politics, Saint Anselm College
Chris Galdieri, Professor of Politics, Saint Anselm College
Dianna Terrell, Professor of Education, Saint Anselm College
Joe Onosko, Professor of Education, University of New Hampshire
Dennis Perreault, Campbell High School

The day will begin with coffee, pastries and registration starting at 8:15. At 9 a.m. Professors Scala and Smith will offer observations on the current presidential primaries, as well as a primer on major changes to the primary process over the past 50 years. Professors Lucas and Galdieri will follow with thoughts on whether and how the primary process could be modified. A panel discussion and “Q & A” with audience members will close out the morning sessions. After lunch, small group breakout sessions will be offered that allow teachers at different grade levels to learn about and share practices related to the presidential primaries (details TBA).

Teachers who register by Feb. 5 will receive a \$15 travel stipend and a certificate for 10 professional development hours, continental breakfast and lunch. Limit 120 participants. [Register here.](#)



**New Hampshire Humanities and
Constitutionally Speaking present:
“Can’t Take a Joke?” The
Transformative and Incendiary
Power of the Editorial Cartoon**

Save the dates! Wed., March 16 and Thurs., March 17

A public forum featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonists and humanities scholars (Signe Wilkinson, Joel Pett, and Shreyas Navare, Jytte Klausen and Victor Navasky) on Wednesday, March 16 at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at Saint Anselm College, and a March 17 conference for high school students led by Souhegan High School Ethics teacher Chris Brooks. The conference will be the seventh annual HYPE (Hosting Young Philosophy Enthusiasts) Day. A thousand students and 75 teachers are expected to take part in HYPE Day.

All schools are welcome to attend though space is limited. Interested parties can contact Christopher Brooks, HYPE Coordinator, at Souhegan High School, Amherst NH at cbrooks@sprise.com



Prepare your students for these events with [these lessons on political cartoons](#)

Marek Bennett's comic on David Souter's talk [is here](#).

Story Preservation Initiative Focuses on Oral Histories

Based in Andover, NH, the Story Preservation LEARNING LAB project works in collaboration with the New Hampshire Department of Education to make all of their resources available to teachers and students (K-12) in the public school system in New Hampshire. The Learning Lab is a project of Story Preservation Initiative and is a password protected site that [can be found here](#). If you would like a Guest Pass to view, please contact them at: info@storypreservation.wordpress.com

Says Brad Morse of West High School in Manchester: "History is best taught and learned by the telling of stories. By listening to the testimonials of people who lived through the historical events and eras we study in class, students have felt a direct relationship to those events in a way that is otherwise difficult to achieve. Whether it was Max Ebel's account of being detained and interned here in America as a German immigrant during World War II, Victor Kumin's story of being a scientist on the Manhattan Project, or Doug Anderson's wrenching description of the daily struggle to stay alive during the Vietnam War, these personal stories being told by the people who lived them is the "hook" that history teachers are so often looking for. I am so pleased to be able to use these accounts

in my American History class.”

Andover Elementary-Middle School in Andover, NH introduced students to WomensTrust Founder, Dana Dakin’s Story Preservation Initiative audio oral history – and then instituted a school-wide (K-8) Power of One project. The students were asked to research people who, like Dana, have made a positive impact in the world – be it a school / a community / or a country. Lesson plans were written for the 2nd and 7th grade projects.

The 7th grade students were asked to identify a person from history who made a “Power of One” impact. They chose JFK. The students researched his life and accomplishments and then created a Facebook page, as if they were JFK. Think about what they had to learn to do that. They needed to know his educational background, family history, and his accomplishments in office. Competencies developed included subject mastery, writing, and technical skills.

Jane Slayton, Andover Elementary Middle School principal writes:

“I am excited that Andover Elementary Middle School has become connected with the Learning Lab... as a school we see great potential in future use. We plan to continue to contribute but also take advantage of this rich and expanding resource.”

[Download a zip file](#) of Jane Slayton’s Power of One lessons.

Live Free or Die Alliance™
Citizens Count NH

New Hampshire Primary Campaign Events Listed

The Live Free Or Die Alliance lists NH events [on their website](#).



Staff at Canterbury Elementary dressed as historical figures on Halloween 2015

Resources

Elementary School

Kids Voting USA: For materials on voting and elections k-12, [register here](#).

I Have A Dream Mobile lesson from the National Constitution Center
[Download PDF](#)

Mark Landry's lesson on local citizenship/ kids and their local community for grade 5.
[Download PDF](#)

Karen O'Shaughnessy's lesson on the Constitution for grade 4.
[Download PDF](#)

"Lillian's Right to Vote: A Celebration of the Right to Vote" by Jonah Winter and Shane W. Evans.

“If I Were President,” “If I Ran For President,” and “My Teacher for President” by Catherine Stier

Smart About Presidents by Jon Buller, Maryann Cocca-Leffler, and Dana Regan.

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio

Max for President by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Woodrow for President By Peter and Cheryl Barnes

My Patriotic Class, by Lisa Anderson

[Download PDF](#)

Middle School

We’ve Got a Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March by Cynthia Levinson.

[More information here.](#)

Liberty Bell’s Immigration Nation game by iCivics.

[Visit the website.](#)

Claudia Bruce’s lesson for grade 7 on Citizen’s Rights and Responsibilities.

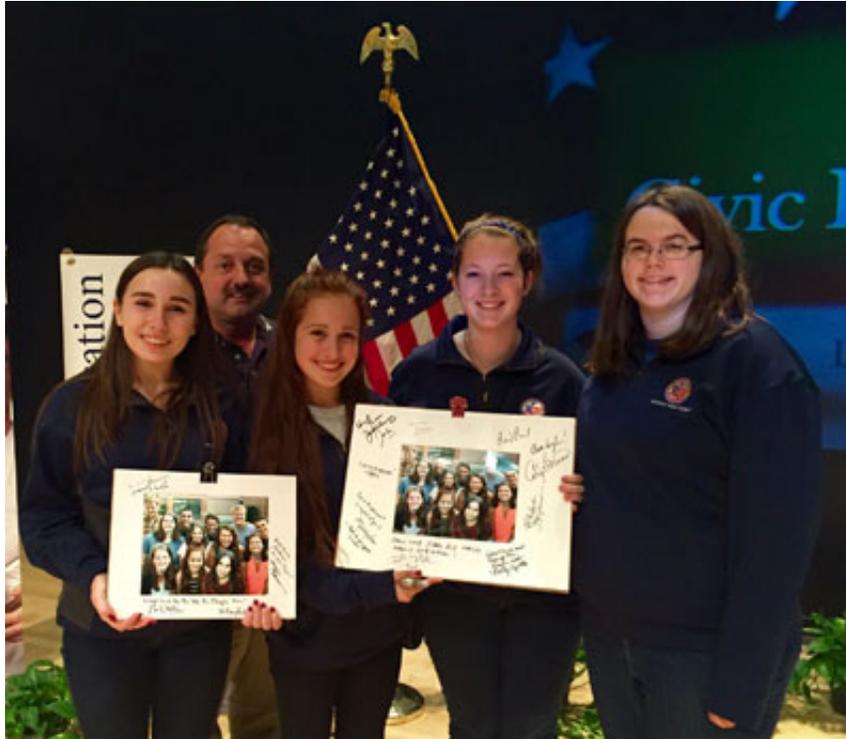
[Download PDF](#)

Lesson for grade 8 on the War of 1812 by Donna Paoletti Phillips.

[Download PDF](#)

Blog on Kid’s Literature about Politics.

[Read here](#)



Dave Alcox poses with members of the Milford High School
We the People state champions.

High School

Constitutionally Speaking's Teacher's Guide II

[Download PDF](#)

"See Congress polarize over the past 60 years in one beautiful chart" by Andrew Prokop in Vox.

[Read here](#)

State of Democracy, a new iPhone app from NHPR

[Read more](#)

[Download from App Store](#)

Readings for Civics Nerds:

"Why Civics Is About More Than Citizenship," The Atlantic, by Alia Wong.

[Read here](#)

“Empathy in Action: How Teachers Prepare Future Citizens: by Marilyn Price-Mitchell in Edutopia.

[Read here](#)



"We have a complex system of government. You have to teach it to every generation." – Sandra Day O'Connor



Constitutionally Speaking is a collaboration of The New Hampshire Humanities Council, The New Hampshire Institute for Civic Education, The New Hampshire Supreme Court Society, University of New Hampshire School of Law, Rockefeller Center for Public Policy at Dartmouth College, and St. Anselm Institute of Politics.
