

Mr. Rodefeld
Room 22
Irondale High School
U.S. Government
September 14th, 2018





1st Hour 8:35 - 9:31

2nd Hour 9:37 - 10:33

3rd Hour 10:39 - 11:35

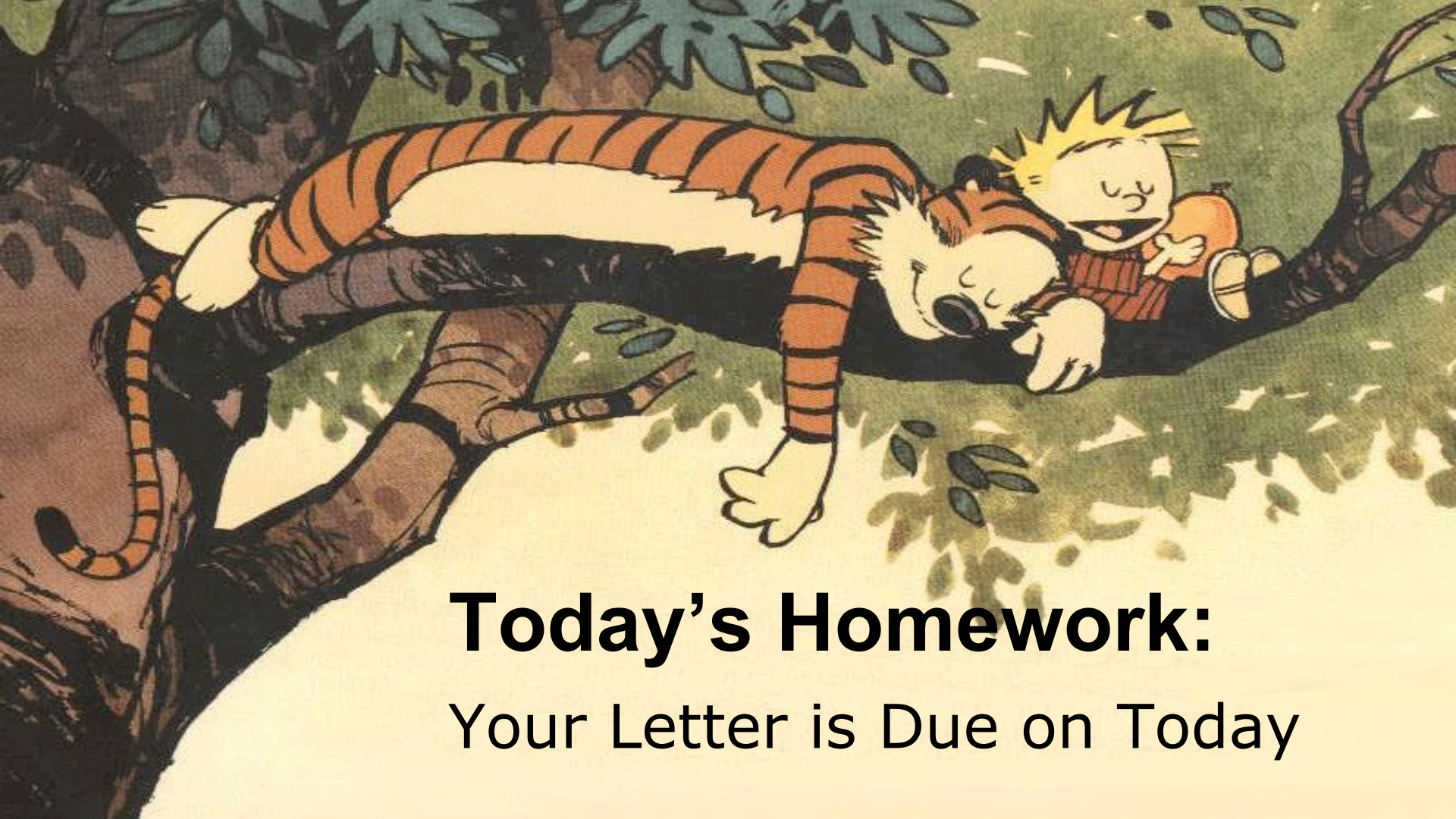
4th Hour 11:41 - 1:11

5th Hour 1:17 - 2:13

6th Hour 2:19 - 3:15

Today in Class:
Basics of
Democracy





Today's Homework:

Your Letter is Due on Today



Tomorrow in Class
Citizenship Presentation



Review Origins

- Stages of Democracy
- European colonialism impact
- Enlightenment impact

Basics of Democracy

- Democracy cannot just exist because it is considered the best of all political systems.
- Democracy exists because the people believe in its basic concepts.
- It will continue to exist as the people continue to practice those concepts.

Principles of Democracy

LT - I can explain the foundations of the American concept of democracy.

Concepts of American Democracy

The American concept of democracy - what we believe democracy means - rests on these basic concepts.

- Worth of the Individual
- Equality of all persons
- Majority rule, minority rights
- Necessity of compromise
- Insistence upon individual freedom

Worth of the Individual

- Each individual, no matter what his or her situation in life, is a separate and distinct being.
- At times the well-being of one or a few might fall below the interests of the common good (the whole).

Equality of all persons

- Does not imply an equality of condition for all persons.
- Democratic concept of equality =
 - Equality of opportunity
 - Equality before the law
- Important to note, we are still far from a genuine universal recognition and respect for all people.

Majority Rule, Minority Rights

- The will of the people and not the ruling body determine public policy.
- The democratic process is a search for satisfactory solutions to public problems.
- **Democracy requires majority rule restrained by minority rights.**
 - Democracy believes that a majority will arrive upon the satisfactory decision more often than not.
 - The majority must be willing to welcome the minority suggestions.
 - Unchecked majority rule could be abusive.

Necessity of Compromise

- Democracy needs to be give-and-take with its various competing interests.
- Democracy must be able to blend and adjust competing views and interests thru compromise.
- Compromise is a process, it is never an end in itself. Not all are good, and not all are necessary.

Insistence upon individual freedom

- Democracy can only thrive in an atmosphere of individual freedom.
 - However, it is not possible to have complete freedom.
 - Require that each individual must be free to do as he or she pleases as far as the freedom of all will allow (rule of law).
- Drawing the line between the rights of one individual and another is not easy.
- Democratic government must work constantly to strike the proper balance between liberty and authority.

Activity - Applying the Principles

- Complete the activity using Google classroom
 - Applying the Principles of Democracy

Activity - Applying the Principles

Class Discussion/ Reflection: How democratic are we?

1. Based on the rankings, what generalizations can you make about the American democracy?
2. Why was your personal “democracy” score similar or different to the class “democracy” score?
3. Is it ok that democracy in the U.S. is sometimes inconsistent or messy? Defend your answer
4. What can citizens do to support the development of the principles that are struggling in their country?

Democracy and Economics

- American commitment to freedom is evident in our nation's economic system as well as political.
- Our economic system is often called the **free enterprise system** = an economic system characterized by private ownership and private decisions, with success and failure determined by competition in the marketplace. (Capitalism)

Democracy and Citizens

- Video: [What does it mean to be a citizen?](#)
 - What does it look like to be a U.S. citizen functioning in our form of democracy?
 - See the list of 5 concepts of American democracy in your study guide / Reflect on the principles of democracy in our activities.
 - Ask yourself: Do I understand and am I committed to honoring the basic concepts of American democracy

Democracy and Citizens

- What does it mean to be a “good citizen?”
 - Honoring/respecting the basic concepts/beliefs of American democracy (see list of 5 concepts)
 - Are you someone that demonstrates strong civic virtue?
 - Civic virtue = dedicated to the greater good of society over self-interest.
 - Hard-working, patriotic, honest

Responsibilities, Duties and Obligations of Citizenship

Duties vs. Responsibilities

- **Duties** = actions a citizen is *required* to take
 - Ex. obey local, state, and national laws, serving on a jury, registering for the draft
- **Responsibilities** = actions a citizen *should* take
 - Ex. volunteering, understand how government works, voting

Responsibilities, Duties and Obligations of Citizenship

- Differences between *personal* and *civic responsibilities*.
 - ***Personal*** = Examples include: taking care of yourself, taking responsibility for your own behavior, being considerate of others, family.
 - ***Civic*** = your role as a citizen of a larger community. Examples include: paying taxes, obeying the law, being informed, respecting rights of others.

Responsibilities, Duties and Obligations of Citizenship

- Making a difference - **Methods of Political Participation**
 - Running for office
 - Work in the government
 - Create petitions
 - Letters written to government leaders
 - Working on campaigns
 - Contributing time and money to various political causes
 - Vote
 - Being informed

Democracy and Citizens

- Activity: Define the Ideal Citizen / Citizenship
brainstorm

Conclusions / Takeaways

- Quick write and report out:
 - Summarize the basic concepts of American democracy
 - Consider our principles of democracy activities