

# Real World Projects That Impact Our Lives

**Course:** Civics and Economics

**Instructor:** Mr. Schlafer

**Grade:** 10th and 12th

## Project Overview:

One great thing about our nation is the process of free speech. Without free speech, people in the United States would not be able to freely express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns, this is a right that many people around the world do not have. Throughout history there have always been heated topics that people are divided on that need to be discussed and decisions to be made by our government, and the use of propaganda has been at the front lines.

## Product:

Groups gave speeches (with visuals) to persuade the Continental Congress to vote for their way for their specific assigned topic. Groups give an argument to a panel (Continental Congress), along with an opposition, the panel decided the winners of the argument based on facts provided.

## Instructor Reflection:

*"This PBL is the foundation of what we will be doing throughout the semester. We will discuss several topics that will require students to not only know the who, why and when for the foundation of our country, but take that content and be able to have a better understanding of how they can create solutions for the future using facts/evidence. Watching the students grow by making the connections on how our Founding Fathers compromised based of facts/evidence, and comparing it to issues and division in today's society."*

## Student Reflections:

*"I learned how to research for facts and knowing what's true from false information."*

*"(This project) will help me better understand how our government came to be today, and who influenced it."*

*"I feel like I learned to manage my time better. The deadlines and workload made me push myself harder in an effort to meet them."*

*"I've grown a lot in my grammar and punctuation, and giving a claim with strong evidence. This project also taught me to pace myself in this project."*

*"Focusing on what I need to get done seemed to help me a lot on this project."*

## Driving Question:

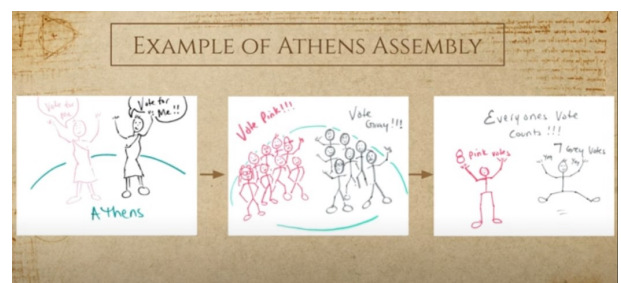
Even with such a loud voice, are the people truly heard by our government?

## Essential Questions:

- ♦ What is the appropriate relationship between citizens and the government?
- ♦ What should happen to citizens or the government if they are not doing their part in the Social Contract?
- ♦ What is America's national identity in terms of the role of government and its relationship to citizens?
- ♦ How has the Declaration of Independence played a role in the development of America's national identity?



Mr. Schlafer (teacher) virtually meeting with students and discussing project expectations and answering questions.



Hand drawn illustration inserted in a student's video presentation for PBL project.

## View a PBL Final Product:

<http://bit.ly/pblproduct>