• USING **OHIOCHECKBOOK**.com IN THE CLASSROOM •

Connections to Ohio Model Curriculum | High School Social Studies

GRADE LEVEL	CONTENT STATEMENT
High School	American Government #3, #20, #22

Skills
Analyze public policy (state government) issues using critical information, develop advocacy positions using data from public records.

Vocabulary
Public records, surveys, research data advocacy groups, public records requests

Educator Note
This strategy works well for culminating projects and/or project based learning (PBL).

STRATEGY #4: STUDENTS AS CITIZEN AUDITORS

STEP 1 - EXPLORE
Have students explore Ohio's Online Checkbook: **OhioCheckbook.gov.**

• Individually or in groups, have students work through the Scavenger Hunt worksheet (included).

STEP 2 - DEFINE & DISCUSS
Review OhioCheckbook.gov homepage, including the "2015 State Spending" and "Year to Year State Spending" graphs.

• Have students research and define each expense category using data from OhioCheckbook.gov.

Questions for discussion:
• Which is the largest expense category?
• Which is the smallest expense category?
• Which expense category had a surprisingly larger percentage of the total budget? Or a surprisingly smaller percentage of the total budget? Why are either of these expense types surprising?

STEP 3 - IDENTIFY & DISCUSS
On the OhioCheckbook.gov homepage, use the "Popular Searches" button (right-hand side) to have students examine various expense categories or use the navigation tools learned from the worksheet to generally search for individual expenses.

• Have students Identify an interesting expense.

Questions for discussion:
• What do you think this expense is for?
• How did you search for it?
• What would you do if you wanted more information on this expense?

STEP 4 - INTRODUCE
Introduce: public records requests.

• Have students submit a public records request by emailing the contact listed under "Who to Contact" on the check image of the expense researched on OhioCheckbook.gov.
• Who received responses? What are the responses received? How fast were responses received?

STEP 5 - DEVELOP & ADVOCATE
Individually or in groups, have students develop a policy position on Ohio government spending using the data found from OhioCheckbook.gov.

• Ask the students to support the position using specific expenditures from OhioCheckbook.gov.
• Discuss the students' policy positions as a class, select one policy position and help the students transition from research to advocacy.
• Submit your proposed policy for review to your local State Representative listed here:
  https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislators/legislator-directory.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLE EVALUATION, EXTENSION ACTIVITIES & WORKSHEET ANSWER KEY

TEACHING STRATEGY #4

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STRATEGY #4: STUDENTS AS CITIZEN AUDITORS   EXAMPLE EVALUATION

How are recall and referendum examples of government reforms?

> **Answer**: A recall is to remove a public official before the end of their term. A referendum is to approve or repeal an act of the legislature.

How could Ohio's Online Checkbook serve as a way to reform state government?

> **Answer**: Providing the public access to financial ledgers and data.

What is the difference between a capital budget and an operating budget?

> **Answer**: A capital budget is for construction, repair or reconstruction of capital asset (e.g. construction of a school building). An operating budget is an appropriation for an agency or entity's budget (e.g. Payroll).

NEXT STEPS ...   EXTENSION ACTIVITIES AND RESOURCES

1. The Ohio Constitution: http://www.sos.state.oh.us/sos/historicaldocuments/theohioconstitution.aspx
2. The Emancipation Day Project: http://a614.g.akamai.net/7/614/2201/v001/aetn.download.akamai. com/2201/thc/soh/pdf/how_to_project_guides/SOH_howtos_LaRue.pdf
3. See Strategy #3, *The Budget Game*

ANSWER KEY TO SCAVENGER HUNT   ANSWERS TO THE STUDENT WORKSHEET ON NEXT PAGES

1. $57,639,983,213.44
2. $1,580,946,163.95
3. Agency: multiple
   Expense Type: multiple
   Fund: multiple
   Appropriation Line Item: multiple
   Program: multiple
   Vendor: multiple
4. $3,338,456,111.47
5. $65,592,276.71
6. $16,587.58
7. $3,216.00 to Pitney Bowes Inc on 3/20/2015

8. Office Equipment
   Richard.winning@dot.state.oh.us
9. 6
10. $95,298.45
11. $13,688.96
12. 2014
13. Proteam Solutions Inc

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR STUDENT WORKSHEET: SCAVENGER HUNT