



Walla Walla Public Schools Classroom Close-Up



TEACHER NAME: Bill Plucker

SCHOOL: Walla Walla High School

Position: AP Government Teacher

YEARS IN DISTRICT: 18 years

Q. What material do you cover in your AP Government class?

A. Most of this class is information gathering and transferring this knowledge by answering questions. This class is divided into six units which covers political parties, behaviors of the voters, institutions, branches of government and civil rights.

Q. How do you test the knowledge of your students?

A. We talk about a lot of issues as they relate to our government. Students will write essays and take multiple choice exams. Students work in groups to have discussions on the material they are learning.

We connect what makes our government work from special interest groups, representatives in government to the bureaucracy. We call it the "Iron Triangle." This is one of the major concepts we cover in this class.

Q. Who is enrolled in this course?

A. These students are primarily seniors who are college bound. Occasionally I will get a junior, but for the most part they are seniors. These students are working toward taking the national AP exam in May for college credit.

Q. How do you prepare the students for the national AP exam?

A. This is the second year we have offered this class at Walla Walla High School. Last year it was just a one semester class, We put an entire year of material into one semester. It was a real challenge, but 78 percent of the students passed the exam. This year it's a two semester class. Three weeks before the exam we will review and take practice tests. Most of the students are planning to take the national AP exam and we have high expectations for success.

Over

MOMENTS & MEMORIES FROM
BILL PLUCKER'S CLASS:



COMMENTS FROM BILL...

My students have a real interest in how our government works. They want to know where the money flows in our government and how decisions are made. Their interest level is what drives the course and makes it fun.

This course helps students see how special interest groups influence our government. Everyone has an interest and someone is always lobbying the government for that interest.



It's amazing how many parents get interested in this class when they see the materials the students are covering. Government impacts everything we do and it's important to know how it works.