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## Explanation Paper

Standards being assessed:

- Minnesota State:
  - 7.1.2.3.1 The United States is based on democratic values and principles that include liberty, individual rights, justice, equality, the rule of law, limited government, common good, popular sovereignty, majority rule and minority rights.
- Common Core:
  - 6.W.1 Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
  - 6.W.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate
  - 6.SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly
  - 6.SL.4 Present claims and findings, sequencing ideas logically and using pertinent descriptions, facts, and details to accentuate main ideas or themes; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation
  - 6.RI.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text

- 6.W.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources; assess the credibility of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and providing basic bibliographic information for sources
- 6.W.9 Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research

Throughout the project students can be self motivated because they have the ability to make a project that suits their own interests. They are able to make a civilization that they would like to be in charge of or live in. Within the rubric, students are told what they need to do to achieve an “A.” Students can then take responsibility for their project in regards to the grade they receive and how they chose to portray the information.

During the presentations, the teacher will be able to evaluate the student’s understanding of democracy by achieving various learning targets. If seventy percent of the students do not meet the standards and objectives, the teacher will then know if they should reteach the content. By creating their own democracies they can understand how they operate in the real world. The results will be recorded to see if the student met the standard, while also being used for conferences between principals and parents.

The authenticity is found in this assessment through the students opportunity to take what they know about government and democracy and apply it to something that they created. Through utilizing the concepts of democracy, students are then able to discover how a democracy works and how it has developed over time. Students are also given the opportunity to

use a higher order of thinking and critically evaluate the success of democracy. They can then apply this understanding to the civilization that they create.